



Systematic Theology

A Study of the Primary Doctrines of the Christian Faith

taught by Dr. Garrett Starr at Faith Baptist Church, Kaiserslautern, Germany

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Faith Baptist Church

“Systematic Theology: A Study of the Primary Doctrines of the Christian Faith”

Lesson 1

I. Prolegomena (_____)

A. Definition: _____ is the study of what the entire Bible says about a given topic such as the nature of God, man, sin, redemption, the atonement, justification, etc. Other areas of theological study are related to *Systematic Theology* but are different in their scope. For example:

1. _____ asks what Deuteronomy teaches about sin, or what the book of Psalms teaches concerning sin, or what the entire Old Testament teaches about sin.
2. _____ asks what the Gospel of John teaches about prayer, or what the entire New Testament teaches about prayer.
3. _____ asks what specific sections of Scripture or certain biblical authors teach on a given topic, and how that topic developed historically in Scripture. For example, what does 1 John say about the obedience of a true Christian, or what does the Apostle Paul say about the role of women in the church? This sounds very close to *Systematic Theology*, and indeed these disciplines overlap, but *Biblical Theology* is concerned with the historical development of a doctrine in Scripture.

The difference then between *Systematic Theology* and these other areas of theological study is that *Systematic Theology* focuses on all the relevant biblical passages on a given doctrine to arrive at a proper understanding of what the whole of Scripture teaches on a particular subject. Therefore, *Systematic Theology* asks what does the entire Bible teach us about prayer, about sin, about salvation, etc.?

B. Why is it important to study *Systematic Theology*?

All our study of theology must help us arrive at a right understanding of Who God is, how we are to live in relationship with Him, and how we are to live out this relationship in everyday life. If all of our efforts do not bring us to this place of knowing truth and right living before the Lord, then why bother?

Systematic Theology, then, is the study of God’s timeless truth that should transform the way we live our daily lives for His glory. Therefore, we study *Systematic Theology* to:

1. _____.
2. correctly articulate the doctrines of orthodox Protestant Christianity.
3. _____.
4. correct any false assumptions or heretical positions that we may currently hold.
5. _____.

C. What are the doctrines that we will examine in our study of *Systematic Theology*?

1. The Doctrine of _____ (Bibliology – Parts 1 & 2)
2. The Doctrine of _____ (Theology)
3. The Doctrine of _____ (Christology)
4. The Doctrine of _____ (Pneumatology)
5. The Doctrine of the Trinity
6. The Doctrine of _____ (Anthropology)
7. The Doctrine of _____ (Hamartiology)
8. The Doctrine of _____ (Soteriology)
9. The Doctrine of _____ (Ecclesiology)

D. Finally, as we begin our study of *Systematic Theology*, we will do so with two assumptions, or presuppositions:

1. The Bible is true and is our only absolute standard of truth.
2. The God of Whom the Bible speaks does exist and is absolutely Who the Bible declares Him to be, specifically, the Creator of all things that exist.

Important Terms from this Section:

Prolegomena	Orthodox
Old Testament Theology	Systematic Theology
New Testament Theology	Biblical Theology

II. The Doctrine of the Word of God (_____)

A. Definition: “The Word of God” is a phrase used in Scripture to denote several different meanings. It is important for us to distinguish between these biblical uses as we begin our study of this doctrine.

1. The Word of God as _____

- a. The Apostle John sees the risen Lord Jesus in Heaven and says, *“He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.” Revelation 19:13, NASB.*
- b. Similarly, the opening of John’s Gospel we read, *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” John 1:1, NASB.* It is clear that John is speaking of Jesus Christ because in John 1:14 the apostle states, *“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth.”*
- c. While this usage of calling Jesus “the Word” is not common in Scripture, it does indicate that among the members of the Trinity, it is God the Son Who in His Person and His Word has the role of communicating the character of God to man.

2. The Word of God as _____

- a. Examples of God speaking directly to people on earth are found in Scripture.
- b. God’s instruction to Adam demonstrates this personal address:

“The LORD God commanded the man, saying, ‘From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.’” Genesis 2:16-17

- c. At the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist in the Jordan River, God spoke from Heaven:

“And behold, a voice out of the heavens said, ‘This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased.’” Matthew 3:17

3. The Word of God as _____

a. Frequently in Scripture, God raises up prophets through whom He speaks. Although these are human words, spoken by people in their familiar languages, the absolute authority of these words, and their truthfulness, is in no way diminished. Their words are God’s Words.

b. Moses speaking as God’s prophet is a perfect example of God speaking through human lips.

“I will raise up a prophet from among their countrymen like you, and I will put My words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. It shall come about that whoever will not listen to My words which he shall speak in My name, I Myself will require it of him. But the prophet who speaks a word presumptuously in My name which I have not commanded him to speak, or which he speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.” Deuteronomy 18:18-20

c. God made a similar statement to the prophet Jeremiah.

“Then the LORD stretched out His hand and touched my mouth, and the LORD said to me, “Behold, I have put My words in your mouth.” Jeremiah 1:9

d. Thus, God’s words spoken through human lips were to be considered just as authoritative as if it were given through personal address.

4. The Word of God as _____

a. In addition to these other forms of God’s Word, we also find in Scripture several instances in which God’s Words were put in written form.

b. We find an example of this in the giving of the ten commandments to Moses:

“When He had finished speaking with him upon Mount Sinai, He gave Moses the two tablets of the testimony, tablets of stone, written by the finger of God.” Exodus 31:18

- c. Moses was also used later by God to write His holy law:

“It came about, when Moses finished writing the words of this law in a book until they were complete, that Moses commanded the Levites who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD, saying, ‘Take this book of the law and place it beside the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, that it may remain there as a witness against you.’” Deuteronomy 31:24-26

- d. It should be noted that these words are still considered to be God’s Word even though they were written down mostly by men and in normal, human language. They are authoritative and absolutely true. To disobey these words is to disobey God Himself.

5. The Word of God as _____

- a. Our study will focus upon the Bible because it is the only form of God’s Word that is available to us for consistent examination.

- b. The other forms of God’s Word are not suitable for us to study because . . .

1. We cannot hear God’s words of decree and thus cannot study them directly.
2. We cannot speak with the Word made flesh in His bodily form because He, Jesus, has ascended to Heaven.
3. God’s words of personal address are uncommon even in Scripture.
4. God’s words spoken through human lips ceased to be given when the New Testament canon was completed so this form is also insufficient as a direction for study.

- c. Therefore, only _____ is sufficient and profitable to withstand such rigorous, systematic, and academic scrutiny.

“How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers! But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.” Psalm 1:1-2

“This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.” Joshua 1:8

“All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;” 2 Timothy 3:16

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Lesson 2

I. The Doctrine of the Word of God (_____)

A. Definition: The _____ of Scripture – The word “canon” means “measuring rod.” In this context then the biblical canon is the complete list of books that belong in the Bible.

1. We must not underestimate the importance of this doctrine. The Words of Scripture are the Words that nourish our spiritual lives. Therefore, we can echo the words of Moses to the nation of Israel in reference to the Words of God’s law:

“For it is no trifle for you, but it is your life, and thereby you shall live long in the land which you are going over the Jordan to possess” Deuteronomy 32:47.

2. To _____ from the Word of God would either prevent God’s people from fully obeying Him, or would require of God’s people that which God has not commanded. Therefore, the precise determination of the extent of the canon is of the utmost importance.

“You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it; that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you” Deuteronomy 4:2.

II. The _____ Canon

A. The earliest collection of words from God is _____.

“When He had finished speaking with him upon Mount Sinai, He gave Moses the two tablets of the testimony, tablets of stone, written by the finger of God.” Exodus 31:18

“Then Moses turned and went down from the mountain with the two tablets of the testimony in his hand, tablets which were written on both sides; they were written on one side and the other.” Exodus 32:15

B. Other Old Testament prophets also added to the canon as instructed by God.

1. _____

“And Joshua wrote these words in the book of the law of God . . .” Joshua 24:26

2. _____

“Then Samuel told the people the ordinances of the kingdom, and wrote them in the book and placed it before the LORD . . .” 1 Samuel 10:25

3. _____

“Now the rest of the acts of Jehoshaphat, first to last, behold, they are written in the annals of Jehu the son of Hanani, which is recorded in the Book of the Kings of Israel.” 2 Chronicles 20:34

4. _____

“Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, ‘Write all the words which I have spoken to you in a book.’” Jeremiah 30:2

Many more Old Testament prophets were used by God to write His words to His people, and this list is by no means exhaustive.

C. The _____ of the Old Testament Canon

1. The Old Testament canon continued to grow as God spoke through His prophets. If we date Haggai to 520 B.C., Zechariah to 518 B.C., and Malachi around 435 B.C., we know that this period coincided with the last books of the Old Testament: Ezra, Nehemiah, and Ester.
2. Jesus and the New Testament authors quote the Old Testament Scriptures as divinely authoritative _____ times, but not once do they cite any statement from the Apocrypha, or any other writings, as having divine authority. Thus, the New Testament writers agreed that the Old Testament canon, no more and no less, was to be taken as God’s very words.

D. What the Old Testament Canon _____

1. The books that comprise the Apocrypha, a collection of Jewish historical books, have never been considered Scripture by the Jews.

The Roman Catholic Church includes the Apocrypha in its Bible. The *Apocrypha* includes these non-canonical books: 1 and 2 Esdras, Tobit, Judith, The Rest of Esther, the Wisdom of Solomon, Ecclesiasticus, Baruch (including the Epistle of Jeremiah), the Song of the Three Holy Children, Susanna, Bel and the Dragon, the Prayer of Manasseh, and 1 and 2 Maccabees.

2. These books were not included in Hebrew Scripture, but were included in the *Septuagint*, the Greek translation of the Old Testament.
3. The Latin Vulgate translation of the Bible by Jerome included the *Apocrypha*, but Jerome himself stated that these books were not “books of the canon,” but merely “books of the church” that provided historical background on the Jewish people.
4. At the _____ in 1546 the Roman Catholic Church officially adopted the *Apocrypha* as part of its Bible. These books include teaching on prayers for the dead, and justification by faith plus works rather than by faith alone, and other teaching that contradicts Scripture. In so doing, the RCC upholds that the tradition of the church has the same authority as the Bible. This teaching was prevalent in the church until the Reformation.

III. The _____ Canon

- A. The New Testament is comprised of the writings of the Christ’s Apostles as they were moved by _____.

"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you." John 14:26

"But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you." John 16:13-14

- B. Those who held the office of Apostle in the early church claimed equality with the Old Testament prophets. This authority allowed them to speak and write the very words of God.

1. Peter encourages his readers to remember *“the words spoken beforehand by the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior spoken by your apostles.”* 2 Peter 3:2

2. To lie to the Apostles was equivalent to lying to the Holy Spirit and to God.

“But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, and kept back some of the price for himself, with his wife's full knowledge, and bringing a portion of it, he laid it at the apostles' feet. But Peter said, ‘Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back some of the price of the land? While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not

under your control? Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God.” Acts 5:1-4

C. The New Testament itself affirms that it is _____.

1. The Apostle Peter clearly affirms that Paul’s epistles are Scripture.

“ . . . just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.” 2 Peter 3:15-16

The word translated “Scripture” here is the Greek word *graphe*, a word that is used fifty-one times in the New Testament and that refers to the Old Testament Scriptures in every single instance. Thus, the word used equates Old Testament writings and the writings of Paul as Scripture.

2. Paul also connects the New Testament and the Old Testament as Scripture.

“The elders who rule well are to be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, “YOU SHALL NOT MUZZLE THE OX WHILE HE IS THRESHING,” and “The laborer is worthy of his wages.” 1 Timothy 5:17-18

The first reference Paul uses from Scripture is from *Deuteronomy 25:4* while the second is from *Luke 10:7*. Thus, Paul is quoting Luke’s Gospel and recognizing it as Scripture.

D. The Five Characteristics of Scripture

1. The _____ of Scripture – By this we mean that all the words in Scripture are God’s words in such a way that to disbelieve or disobey any word of Scripture is to disbelieve or disobey God.

a. *“All Scripture is inspired by God . . .” 2 Timothy 3:16*

b. *“For no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.” 2 Peter 1:21*

c. *“Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet” Matthew 1:22*

d. *“If anyone thinks he is a prophet or spiritual, let him recognize that the things which I write to you are the Lord’s commandment.” 1 Corinthians 14:37*

e. These verses, and many others, attribute the source of the Scriptures to God. He spoke His very words through human agents who spoke and wrote God’s words

down as God intended us to receive them. Therefore, the Scripture is absolutely authoritative as God's words to us collected as God purposed in the closed canon of Scripture.

2. The _____ of Scripture – By this we mean that Scripture in the original manuscripts does not affirm anything that is contrary to fact.
 - a. This definition does not mean that the Bible tells us every fact there is to know about any one subject, but it affirms that what the Bible does say about any subject is true.
 - b. *“Every word of God is tested; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him.” Proverbs 30:5*
 - c. Though sin may taint the words of every man who speaks, God may speak through the agency of men without any error whatsoever because He is God.
 - d. *“God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent;” Numbers 23:19*
 - e. The Bible can be inerrant and still speak in the ordinary language of everyday speech.

3. The _____ of Scripture – By this we mean that the Holy Spirit wrote the Old and New Testaments through men in such a way that they may be understood by ordinary believers. Everything needed for our salvation and our Christian life and growth are very clearly set forth in Scripture.
 - a. Anyone who studies the Bible must admit that some parts of it are easy to understand while other parts seem puzzling. Faithful study brings clarity.
 - b. *“. . . just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.” 2 Peter 3:15-16*
 - c. The primary reason for misunderstanding Scripture is poor hermeneutical method. Without proper study technique (Observation, Interpretation, and Application), it is impossible to rightly interpret the Word of God.

4. The _____ of Scripture – By this we mean that the Bible is necessary for knowing the Gospel, for maintaining spiritual life, and for knowing God's will.

- a. *"The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law."* Deuteronomy 29:29
 - b. *"How blessed are those whose way is blameless, Who walk in the law of the LORD."* Psalm 119:1
 - c. Scripture is not necessary to know that God exists, nor to know something of God's character or moral laws.
 - d. *"For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse."* Romans 1:20
5. The _____ of Scripture – By this we mean that Scripture contains all the words of God intended His people to have at each stage of redemptive history, and that it now contains all the words of God we need for salvation, for trusting Him perfectly, and for obeying Him perfectly.
- a. This definition means that God considers His Word to be enough for us to live in holy obedience before Him.
 - b. *"and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work."* 2 Timothy 3:15-17
 - c. The sufficiency of Scripture should:
 1. _____ us to search out God's Word to know what He says about every doctrine and area of life.
 2. _____ us that we are to add nothing to nor take away from Scripture, and that no other writing is of equal value to the Word of God.
 3. _____ to us that God does not require us to believe anything about Himself or His redemptive work that is not found in Scripture.
 4. _____ to us that no modern revelations from God are to be placed on the same level as the authority of Scripture.
 5. _____ us that our doctrinal and ethical teaching should emphasize what Scripture emphasizes and teaches.

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Lesson 3

I. The Doctrine of God (_____)

A. The _____ of God: How do we know that God exists?

1. Humanity’s _____ of God – All people have an inner sense that God exists, that they are His creatures, and that He is their Creator. Of the wicked, Scripture has this to say about their rejection of this truth:

¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,¹⁹ because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. (Rom 1:18-19 NAS)

The denial of God’s existence is the willful act of a fool.

“The fool has said in his heart, ‘There is no God.’ They are corrupt, they have committed abominable deeds; There is no one who does good. (Psa 14:1; 53:1 NAS)

For the Christian, this inner sense of God takes on a clear and distinct understanding. Christians begin to see God as their heavenly Father.

“For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, ‘Abba! Father!’” (Rom 8:15 NAS)

The Holy Spirit bears witness with the Christian that he or she is a child of God.

“The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,” (Rom 8:16 NAS)

Christians come to know that Jesus Christ is living within them.

“so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love,” (Eph 3:17 NAS)

“to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.” (Col 1:27 NAS)

B. Believing the _____ in Scripture and Nature

1. Beginning with the book of Genesis, Scripture does not present the existence of God as something that needs to be proven. Instead, Scripture assumes that God exists throughout the entire canon.

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. (Gen 1:1 NAS)

Thus, at the very beginning of the written Word of God, we find not a list of convincing proofs that there is a God, but rather we are told what God has done. Closely connected with this biblical _____, Scripture also declares that the existence of God is evident through nature.

“For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. (Rom 1:20 NAS)

“The heavens are telling of the glory of God; And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands.” (Psa 19:1 NAS)

The beauty of a snowflake, the complexity of the human eye, the navigational abilities of a simple honey bee, and a million other evidences in nature (_____) all point to the fact that God the Creator exists. Anyone denying this truth is either wrongly evaluating the evidence or intentionally denying the existence of God.

- C. Traditional _____ for the Existence of God – The traditional “proofs” for the existence of God have been constructed by Christian (and some non-Christian) philosophers throughout history. They are attempts to analyze the evidence for the existence of God, especially from nature, in extremely careful and logically precise ways, in order to convince people that it is not rational to reject the idea of God’s existence.

Most of the traditional proofs for the existence of God can be classified in four major types of arguments:

1. The _____ Argument considers the fact that every known thing in the universe has a cause. Therefore, the universe itself must also have a cause, and the cause of such a great universe can only be God.
2. The _____ Argument is really a subcategory of the Cosmological Argument. It focuses on the evidence, harmony, order, and

design in the universe, and argues that its design gives evidence of an intelligent purpose (the Greek word *telos* means “end” or “goal” or “purpose”). Since the universe appears to be designed with a purpose, there must be an intelligent and purposeful God who created it to function this way.

3. The _____ Argument begins with the idea of God, who is defined as a being (*ont* is the Greek stem for “being”) “greater than which nothing can be imagined.” It then argues that the characteristic of existence must belong to such a Being since it is greater to exist than not to exist.
4. The _____ Argument begins from man’s sense of right and wrong, and for the need for justice to be done. It argues that there must be a God who is the source of all that is right and good and who will one day mete out justice to all people.

These four types of arguments are used to overcome to intellectual objections to the existence of God held by unbelievers. These arguments cannot bring people to saving faith, but they can provide intellectual evidence for something that they have already been persuaded of from their own inner sense of God and from the testimony of Scripture and nature.

- D. The _____ of God – Can we really know God? How much of God can we know?
1. The Necessity for God to _____ Himself to Us – If we are to know God at all, it is necessary for Him to make himself known to us. Even when discovering God in nature, it is God’s revelation of himself through nature that enables us to know Him. This is _____ revelation.

With regard to the personal knowledge of God that comes in salvation, this idea is even more explicit.

"All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son, except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father, except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him. (Mat 11:27 NAS)

Thus, only God himself can give the _____ revelation of himself and the saving work of Jesus Christ on the cross that leads to salvation. Apart from God’s special revelation of himself, sinful man will misinterpret the evidence of God’s existence found in nature.

¹⁸ *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, (Rom 1:18 NAS)*

²¹ *For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God, or give thanks; but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. (Rom 1:21 NAS)*

²⁵ *For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. (Rom 1:25 NAS)*

2. We Can Never Fully _____ God – Because God is infinite and we are finite, we can never fully understand God.

³ *Great is the LORD, and highly to be praised; And His greatness is unsearchable. (Psa 145:3 NAS)*

¹⁰ *For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.¹¹ For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man, which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. (1Co 2:10-11 NAS)*

⁹ *"For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts. (Isa 55:9 NAS)*

In light of this truth, it is accurate to say that God is incomprehensible, that is, that we will never fully be able to comprehend everything about God. We may know of God's love, or compassion, or wrath, or holiness, or patience, but we will never know everything about these attributes of God because He is an incomprehensible infinite God.

3. Yet We Can Know God _____ – Even though we cannot know God exhaustively, that is, know all there is to know about God or about an attribute of God, we can know God truly. We can know God truly because all that Scripture tells us about God can be trusted as true.

It is important to know that through Scripture, not only do we learn about the attributes of God, but we also come to know God himself.

²³ *Thus says the LORD, "Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; ²⁴ but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD who exercises lovingkindness, justice, and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things," declares the LORD. (Jer 9:23-24 NAS)*

God is telling us here in His Word that the source of our joy and our sense of importance ought to come not from our own abilities or possessions, but from the fact that we know Him. According to Jesus, our eternal life hinges upon this reality.

³ *"And this is eternal life, that they may know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent. (Joh 17:3 NAS)*

Thus, we do not have mere facts about God, but rather we know God unto salvation through the revelation of Jesus Christ. Thus, we know God truly as He has revealed himself to us.

E. The _____ Attributes of God – By this we mean that these attributes are specific to God and not man.

1. _____ – God's independence is defined as follows: *God does not need us or the rest of creation for anything, yet we and the rest of creation can glorify God and bring Him joy.* This attribute is sometimes called God's self-existence or God's *aseity* (from the Latin words *a se*, which mean "from himself").

²⁴ *"The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; ²⁵ neither is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all life and breath and all things; (Act 17:24-25 NAS)*

¹¹ *"Who has given to Me that I should repay him? Whatever is under the whole heaven is Mine. (Job 41:11 NAS)*

Some have entertained the thought that God created humanity because He was lonely and needed fellowship with other persons. If this were true, it would mean that God would not be completely independent of creation.

⁵ *"And now, glorify Thou Me together with Thyself, Father, with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was. (Joh 17:5 NAS)*

²⁴ *"Father, I desire that they also, whom Thou hast given Me, be with Me where I am, in order that they may behold My glory, which Thou hast given Me; for Thou didst love Me before the foundation of the world. (Joh 17:24 NAS)*

Truly, the three Persons of the Godhead were independent and in perfect unity in all eternity past without mankind or the rest of creation.

2. _____ – We can define the unchangeableness of God as follows: *God is unchanging in His being, perfections, purposes and promises, yet God does act and feel emotions, and He acts and feels differently in response to different situations.* This attribute of God's is also called _____.

²⁵ *"Of old Thou didst found the earth; And the heavens are the work of Thy hands. ²⁶ "Even they will perish, but Thou dost endure; And all of them will wear out like a garment; Like clothing Thou wilt change them, and they will be*

changed. ²⁷ *"But Thou art the same, And Thy years will not come to an end. (Psa 102:25-27 NAS)*

⁶ *"For I, the LORD, do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed. (Mal 3:6 NAS)*

¹⁷ *Every good thing bestowed and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation, or shifting shadow. (Jam 1:17 NAS)*

⁸ *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today, yes and forever. (Heb 13:8 NAS)*

Thus, God is immutable. He does not change.

A. Does God Sometimes _____? Even as we talk about God being unchanging in His purposes, we may wonder about instances in Scripture where God said He would judge His people and then, because of prayer or the people's repentance (or both), God relented and did not bring judgment as He said He would.

⁹ *And the LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, and behold, they are an obstinate people. ¹⁰ "Now then let Me alone, that My anger may burn against them, and that I may destroy them; and I will make of you a great nation." ¹¹ Then Moses entreated the LORD his God, and said, "O LORD, why doth Thine anger burn against Thy people whom Thou hast brought out from the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? ¹² "Why should the Egyptians speak, saying, 'With evil intent He brought them out to kill them in the mountains and to destroy them from the face of the earth '? Turn from Thy burning anger and change Thy mind about doing harm to Thy people. ¹³ "Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, Thy servants to whom Thou didst swear by Thyself, and didst say to them, 'I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heavens, and all this land of which I have spoken I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.'" ¹⁴ So the LORD changed His mind about the harm which He said He would do to His people. (Exo 32:9-14 NAS)*

Didn't God's purpose change in this situation? We must understand that this instance and many others in Scripture (Isaiah 38:1-6; Jonah 3:4,10; Genesis 6:6; 1 Samuel 15:10; etc.), *express God's true attitude or intention to act with respect to the situation as it exists at that moment.* If the situation changes, then God's attitude or expression will also change. God responds differently to different situations, but He does not change.

One more example:

⁵ *Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.*

⁶ *And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. (Gen 6:5-6 NAS)*

God is grieved in His heart because of the present state of man's sinfulness instead of the state of perfect sinlessness in which they were created. This is an expression of God's present displeasure toward man's sinfulness.

3. _____ – God's eternity may be defined as follows: God has no beginning, end, or succession of moments in His own being, and He sees all time equally vividly, yet God sees events in time and acts in time. This doctrine is also referred to as God's _____. This doctrine is related to God's immutability (unchangeableness) because since God is unchangeable, time cannot change God. Time has no effect on God's being, purposes, or promises. God never learns new things or forgets things. He is eternal and has perfect knowledge of all that is (past, present, and future).

A Prayer of Moses the man of God. Lord, Thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations. ² Before the mountains were born, Or Thou didst give birth to the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, Thou art God. ³ Thou dost turn man back into dust, And dost say, "Return, O children of men." ⁴ For a thousand years in Thy sight Are like yesterday when it passes by, Or as a watch in the night. (Psa 90:1-4 NAS)

²⁶ *"Behold, God is exalted, and we do not know Him; The number of His years is unsearchable. (Job 36:26 NAS)*

Consider the enormity of this truth. The God in Whom we trust sees the creation of the universe, the ministry of His only Son upon the earth, this very moment that we are here together, the final judgment of man, and eternity with perfect clarity because it is all present before Him right now.

⁹ *"Remember the former things long past, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, ¹⁰ Declaring the end from the beginning And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, 'My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure'; (Isa 46:9-10 NAS)*

4. _____ – Just as God is unlimited or infinite with respect to time, God is also unlimited with respect to space. God's omnipresence may be defined as follows: God does not have size or spatial dimensions and is present at every point of space with His whole being, yet God acts differently in different places.

King David beautifully describes the omniscience of God in Psalm 139.

⁷ *Where can I go from Thy Spirit? Or where can I flee from Thy presence? ⁸ If I ascend to heaven, Thou art there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, Thou art*

there. ⁹ *If I take the wings of the dawn, If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea,*
¹⁰ *Even there Thy hand will lead me, And Thy right hand will lay hold of me.*
(Psa 139:7-10 NAS)

A. God Does Not Have _____. Even though God's whole being is present in every part of space, or at every point in space, it is necessary to note that God _____ by any space.

²⁷ *"But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain Thee, how much less this house which I have built!*
(1Ki 8:27 NAS)

¹*Thus says the LORD, "Heaven is My throne, and the earth is My footstool. Where then is a house you could build for Me? And where is a place that I may rest? (Isa 66:1 NAS)*

We must guard against thinking that God extends infinitely far in all directions so that He himself exists infinitely in a sort of infinite, unending space. Nor should we think that God is somehow a bigger area surrounding the space of the universe as we know it. These ideas continue to think of God in spatial terms as if He were simply an extremely large being. God does not have size or spatial dimensions. God exists without size or dimensions in space.

B. God Can Be Present to _____. The idea of God's omnipresence can often trouble people when they think of God being present in Hell. Isn't Hell the opposite of the presence of God? We can resolve our difficulty in understanding when we that God is present in _____.

1. Sometimes God is present to _____. A terrifying passage in Amos vividly portrays this presence of God in judgment.

¹*I saw the Lord standing beside the altar, and He said, "Smite the capitals so that the thresholds will shake, And break them on the heads of them all! Then I will slay the rest of them with the sword; They will not have a fugitive who will flee, Or a refugee who will escape. ² "Though they dig into Sheol, From there shall My hand take them; And though they ascend to heaven, From there will I bring them down. ³ "And though they hide on the summit of Carmel, I will search them out and take them from there; And though they conceal themselves from My sight on the floor of the sea, From there I will command the serpent and it will bite them. ⁴ "And though they go into captivity before their enemies, From there I will command the sword (Amo 9:1-4 NAS)*

Sometimes God is present to sustain.

¹⁶ For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-- all things have been created by Him and for Him. ¹⁷ And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. (Col 1:16-17 NAS)

³ And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power . . . (Heb 1:3 NAS)

But at most other times, God is present to bless.

³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He shall dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be among them, ⁴ and He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there shall no longer be any death; there shall no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away." (Rev 21:3-4 NAS)

Thus, God is omnipresent to punish sinners, to sustain His creation, and to bless His people.

5. _____ – The unity of God can be defined as follows: God is not divided into parts, yet we see different attributes of God emphasized at different times. Whenever Scripture speaks of the attributes of God it never singles out one attribute as more important than all the rest. The Word of God tells us that “God is light” (1 John 1:5) and then a little later tells us that “God is love” (1 John 4:8). There is no indication to say that one part of God is love and another part of God is light, or that God is partly love and partly light. Rather, it is God *himself* Who is light and it is God *himself* Who is also love.

⁶ Then the LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; (Exo 34:6 NAS)

But we should not think of God as some kind of collection of His many attributes. Neither is God added to by these attributes. God is self-existent and His attributes flow out from His _____ being. Thus, when we speak of the unity of God, we should seek to know and love Him as himself in all of the ways that He has revealed himself in His Word.

- F. The _____ Attributes of God – This is a long list of the attributes of God that are either true of us or are to be imitated in our lives as we follow Jesus Christ. We will classify these attributes into five basic categories:

attributes describing God's being, mental attributes, moral attributes, attributes of purpose, and finally some summary attributes.

1. _____ (Attribute of Being) – People have often asked if God is material in His form (other than Jesus Christ in His Incarnation), or if He is made of some other form of matter, or if God is pure energy, or is He in some sense pure thought? The answer to all of these queries is no. God is _____ (John 4:24).

Again, God's being cannot be thought of in terms of spatial parameters because He has none. God even forbids anyone from thinking of Him in terms of being similar to anything else in creation.

⁴"You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth. ⁵ "You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me, (Exo 20:4-5 NAS)

God's essence, His _____, is different from anything that He has created. At this point we can define God's spirituality as follows: God's spirituality means that God exists as a being that is not made of any matter, has no parts or dimensions, is unable to be perceived by our bodily senses, and is more excellent in His perfections than any other kind of existence.

At this point we may wonder why this attribute is listed as a communicable attribute. It is because even though God's spirituality is very different from ours, He has given each of us a spirit that we might worship Him,

²⁴ "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." (Joh 4:24 NAS)

that we might unite with Him,

¹⁷ But the one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit with Him. (1Co 6:17 NAS)

and to our spirits God's Spirit bears witness that we are His children.

¹⁶ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, (Rom 8:16 NAS)

2. _____ (Mental Attribute) – This may also be referred to as _____. We may define God's knowledge as follows: God fully knows himself and all things _____ in one simple and eternal act. This knowledge of God means that even though He is infinite, God knows himself completely.

The above definition says that God knows “all things actual” meaning all things that exist and all things that happen.

¹³*And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do. (Heb 4:13 NAS)*

²⁴*"For He looks to the ends of the earth, And sees everything under the heavens. (Job 28:24 NAS)*

The above definition also states that God knows _____. Jesus also speaks of what would have happened if certain circumstances had occurred.

²¹*"Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles had occurred in Tyre and Sidon which occurred in you, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. (Mat 11:21 NAS)*

²³*"And you, Capernaum, will not be exalted to heaven, will you? You shall descend to Hades; for if the miracles had occurred in Sodom which occurred in you, it would have remained to this day. (Mat 11:23 NAS)*

Whether actual or possible, whether past, present, or future, God knows all things. This is indeed an amazing truth.

What if someone objects by protesting that God promises to remember our sins no more (Isaiah 43:25)? Isn't this an example of God not having complete knowledge? No. A better way to understand this is that God, having complete knowledge of our sin but having forgiven us in Jesus Christ, will never again allow His knowledge of our sin to play any part in the way that He relates to us. Thus, God is omniscient and still remembers our sin no more.

How then is _____ a communicable attribute of God? God gives us, even as finite beings, the ability to have knowledge of Him as revealed through His Word, as well as knowledge of the creation and our relationship to Him as sinners and as children of God. So, knowledge is a communicable attribute.

3. _____ (Mental Attribute) – We can define the wisdom of God as follows: God's wisdom means that God always chooses the best goals and the best means to those goals. In other words, because of His wisdom, God always chooses and does what is best. The cross is the supreme example of this truth.

²¹*For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. (1Co 1:21 NAS)*

The greatest of the world's wisdom cannot attain to the wisdom of God.

27 but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong,

Only God has true wisdom and so man's wisdom is nothing before God.

29 that no man should boast before God.

How is the wisdom of God a communicable attribute to men? The wisdom of God allows us to come to a _____ of Jesus Christ that we might be redeemed, be made righteous, and be sanctified for the glory of the Lord.

30 But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, 31 that, just as it is written, "Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord." (1Co 1:30-31 NAS)

4. _____ (Mental Attribute) – God's truthfulness means that He is the true God and that all His knowledge and words are both true and the final standard of truth. Another word for God's truthfulness is _____.

Since God is the only true God, all other gods are false.

10 But the LORD is the true God; He is the living God and the everlasting King. At His wrath the earth quakes, And the nations cannot endure His indignation. 11 Thus you shall say to them, "The gods that did not make the heavens and the earth shall perish from the earth and from under the heavens." (Jer 10:10-11 NAS)

It is in truth that God reveals that He himself is the only way of salvation.

3" And this is eternal life, that they may know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent. (Joh 17:3 NAS)

20 And we know that the Son of God has come, and has given us understanding, in order that we might know Him who is true, and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life. (1Jo 5:20 NAS)

The very words of God are truth. His words are _____.

19 "God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent; Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good? (Num 23:19 NAS)

How is God's truthfulness a communicable attribute? We should _____ God's truthfulness.

¹⁶ *"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. (Exo 20:16 NAS)*

⁵ *A righteous man hates falsehood . . ." (Pro 13:5 NAS)*

¹⁷ *'Also let none of you devise evil in your heart against another, and do not love perjury; for all these are what I hate,' declares the LORD." (Zec 8:17 NAS)*

Faith Baptist Church

“Systematic Theology: A Study of the Primary Doctrines of the Christian Faith”

Lesson 4

I. The Doctrine of Christ (_____)

A. The Humanity of Christ – We may summarize the biblical teaching about the Person of Christ as follows: Jesus Christ was and is _____ and _____ in one Person, and will be so forever. Although it does not appear in Scripture, the word that we use to describe the fact that Jesus was God and took on human flesh and human nature is _____. Here are some of the aspects of Jesus’ humanity that Scripture affirms:

1. The _____ – When we speak of the humanity of Christ it is appropriate to begin with a consideration of the virgin birth of Jesus. Scripture states in unambiguous terms that Jesus was conceived in the womb of His mother, Mary, by a supernatural work of the Holy Spirit and without a human father.

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit.

²⁰ But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for that which has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.

²² Now all this took place that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet might be fulfilled, saying, ²³ "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which translated means, "God with us."

²⁴ And Joseph arose from his sleep, and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took her as his wife, ²⁵ and kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name Jesus. (Mat 1:18-25 NAS)

The Virgin Birth of Jesus Christ is Important for Three Reasons:

A. The virgin birth shows that salvation ultimately must come from a supernatural work of the Lord. Salvation can never come from _____.

B. The virgin birth made possible the uniting of full deity and full humanity in _____.

- C. The virgin birth makes possible Christ's true humanity without _____. All human beings have inherited legal guilt and a corrupt moral nature from their first father, Adam, as he is the corporate head for mankind (the representative for man before God). This is also called _____. Jesus, the second Adam, does not have this inherited sin from Adam because His Father is God Who is without sin. Therefore, Jesus could die to atone for sin because He is without sin.

2. Human _____

- A. Jesus Had a _____ – The reality of Jesus very real humanity is seen readily in Scripture. We see this in Jesus' earthly birth, His growth, His death, and in His resurrection.

⁷ And she gave birth to her first-born son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. (Luk 2:7 NAS)

⁴⁰ And the Child continued to grow and become strong, increasing in wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him. (Luk 2:40 NAS)

⁶ and Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied from His journey, was sitting thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour. (Joh 4:6 NAS)

⁴⁶ And Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into Thy hands I commit My spirit." And having said this, He breathed His last. (Luk 23:46 NAS)

²⁷ Then He said to Thomas, "Reach here your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand, and put it into My side; and be not unbelieving, but believing." ²⁸ Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" (Joh 20:27-28 NAS)

- B. Jesus Had a _____ – In His Incarnation, Jesus went through the same learning process as every other child. He had to learn how to eat, how to talk, and how to read and write.

⁵² And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men. (Luk 2:52 NAS)

³² "But of that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone. (Mar 13:32 NAS)

- C. Jesus Had a Human _____ and Human _____ – This is a necessary part of being fully human and Scripture bears witness that this is true of Jesus.

Knowing that the crucifixion was before Him, Jesus said,

²⁷ "Now My soul has become troubled; and what shall I say, 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I came to this hour. (Joh 12:27 NAS)

A few verses later, the Apostle John writes,

²¹ *When Jesus had said this, He became troubled in spirit . . .” (Joh 13:21 NAS)*

Jesus had a full range of human emotions.

¹⁰ *Now when Jesus heard this, He marveled, and said to those who were following, "Truly I say to you, I have not found such great faith with anyone in Israel. (Mat 8:10 NAS)*

³³ *When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her, also weeping, He was deeply moved in spirit, and was troubled, ³⁴ *and said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to Him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵ *Jesus wept. ³⁶ *And so the Jews were saying, "Behold how He loved him!" (Joh 11:33-36 NAS)****

⁷ *In the days of His flesh, He offered up both prayers and supplications with loud crying and tears to the One able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His piety. (Heb 5:7 NAS)*

¹⁴ *And He found in the temple those who were selling oxen and sheep and doves, and the moneychangers seated. ¹⁵ *And He made a scourge of cords, and drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen; and He poured out the coins of the moneychangers, and overturned their tables; ¹⁶ *and to those who were selling the doves He said, "Take these things away; stop making My Father's house a house of merchandise." ¹⁷ *His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for Thy house will consume me." (Joh 2:14-17 NAS)****

3. Jesus Was _____ – The Word of God is replete with the sinlessness of the Messiah.

²¹ *He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. (2 Cor 5:21 NAS)*

³ *For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, (Rom 8:3 NAS)*

⁴⁶ *"Which one of you convicts Me of sin? If I speak truth, why do you not believe Me? (Joh 8:46 NAS)*

¹⁵ *For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. (Heb 4:15 NAS)*

4. Why Was Jesus's _____ Necessary? – When the Apostle John wrote his first epistle, there was a heresy called Docetism (from the Greek word *dokeo* meaning “to seem, to appear to be”) that stated that Jesus was not a man. Jesus

only appeared to be human. This teaching was so prevalent that the Apostle John could rightly say that this was a doctrine of the anti-christ.

² *By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God;* ³ *and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; and this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world. (1Jo 4:2-3 NAS)*

The Full Humanity of Jesus Was Necessary:

A. For _____ – Jesus obeyed God the Father perfectly as our representative before God whereas Adam had sinned and failed.

¹⁸ *So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men.* ¹⁹ *For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous. (Rom 5:18-19 NAS)*

B. To Be a _____ – If Jesus had not been a man, He could not have died in our place and paid the penalty for sin that was due to us.

¹⁶ *For assuredly He does not give help to angels, but He gives help to the descendant of Abraham.* ¹⁷ *Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. (Heb 2:16-17 NAS)*

C. To Be the _____ Between God and Man - Because He was without sin, and in order to fulfill the role of Mediator to represent humanity before God, Jesus had to be both fully God and fully man.

⁵ *For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, (1Ti 2:5 NAS)*

B. The _____ of Christ – We affirm that Jesus Christ was not only fully human, but also fully divine. The biblical evidence for the deity of Christ is very extensive in the New Testament.

1. The Word _____ (*Theos*) is Used of Christ – This use of “God” in the New Testament is usually reserved for God the Father, nonetheless, there are several passages where it is also used to refer to Jesus Christ, God the Son.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (Joh 1:1 NAS - See also John 1:14)

¹⁸ *No man has seen God at any time; the only begotten God, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him. (Joh 1:18 NAS)*

⁸ *But of the Son He says, "Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever, And the righteous scepter is the scepter of His kingdom. (Heb 1:8 NAS)* ⁸ *But of the Son He says, "Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever, And the righteous scepter is the scepter of His kingdom. (Heb 1:8 NAS)*

Simon Peter, a bond-servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours, by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ: (2 Pe 1:1 NAS)

⁶ *For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. (Isa 9:6 NAS)*

2. The Word _____ (Kyrios) is Used of Christ – The word *kyrios* was used 6,814 times in the Greek translation of the Old Testament (Septuagint). Therefore, any Greek-speaking reader at the time of the New Testament would have recognized that the use of the word for *Lord* in the proper context (It was sometimes used like “sir” when talking to a superior.) was a clear reference to the Creator and Sustainer of heaven and earth, the omnipotent God.

¹¹ *for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. (Luk 2:11 NAS)*

³ *For this is the one referred to by Isaiah the prophet, saying, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness, 'Make ready the way of the Lord, Make His paths straight!'" (Mat 3:3 NAS)*

¹⁰ *And, "Thou, Lord, in the beginning didst lay the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the works of Thy hands; ¹¹ They will perish, but Thou remainest; And they all will become old as a garment, ¹² And as a mantle Thou wilt roll them up; As a garment they will also be changed. But Thou art the same, And Thy years will not come to an end." (Heb 1:10-12 NAS)*

This Hebrews pericope above quotes Psalm 102 which speaks about the work of the *Lord* in creation and applies it to Christ. And this final use of “Lord” in Revelation is the culmination of Jesus’ return as conquering King.

¹⁶ *And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS." (Rev 19:16 NAS)*

3. Additional Strong _____ – In addition to the uses of the words *God* and *Lord* that refer to Christ, there are more passages that strongly claim deity for Jesus Christ.

⁵⁷ *The Jews therefore said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?"* ⁵⁸ *Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am."* (Joh 8:57-58 NAS)

This is a clear reference back to the day on which Jesus spoke to Moses from the burning bush. This is one of the eight "_____" statements found in John's gospel that are also Jesus' clear claims to be God. Here they are below:

John 6: 35, 48 - I am the _____

John 8: 12, 9:5 - I am the light of the world

John 8: 58 - Before Abraham was, I am _____

John 10:9 - I am _____

John 10:11 - I am the good shepherd

John 11:25 - I am the resurrection and the life

John 14:6 - I am the way, the truth, and the life

John 15:1 - I am the _____

For those hearing Jesus speak in the context of Judaism, these statements were understood as absolute claims to be God. There are also instances in Scripture in which Jesus demonstrates His deity through omniscience by knowing the thoughts of men.

⁸ *And immediately Jesus, aware in His spirit that they were reasoning that way within themselves, said to them, "Why are you reasoning about these things in your hearts?"* (Mar 2:8 NAS)

Another claim to deity is Jesus' affirmation that worshipping Him as God is the right thing to do. After seeing Jesus' miracles, His disciples began to give Him glory only due to God. The Pharisees protested this, but Jesus affirmed His disciples' actions.

³⁸ *saying, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord; Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"* ³⁹ *And some of the Pharisees in the multitude said to Him, "Teacher, rebuke Your disciples."* ⁴⁰ *And He answered and said, "I tell you, if these become silent, the stones will cry out!"* (Luk 19:38-40 NAS)

4. Did Jesus Give Up Some of His Divine Attributes While on Earth? (The Kenosis Theory) – The answer is _____. This entire question comes from one verse.

⁵ *Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,* ⁶ *who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped,* ⁷ *but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.* (Phi 2:5-7 NAS)

Several theologians in Germany (1860-1880) and in England (1890-1910) advocated a view that had never before been proposed in the previous 1,800 years of the history of the church. This belief posited that during His Incarnation, Jesus Christ voluntarily gave up some of His divine attributes (omniscience, omnipotence, and omnipresence) in order to better fulfill His earthly ministry. This so-called Kenosis Theory was based

on the reading of the above verses in which the word “emptied” (Greek: *kenoo*) was translated as “emptied Himself.” While this is a correct translation of the Greek word, it does not imply a diminishing of Jesus Christ’s divine attributes. Nowhere in Scripture is this affirmed. Jesus remained fully divine in every way during His earthly ministry. The correct interpretation of “emptied Himself” in context presents “emptying” as equivalent to “humbling himself” and taking on a lowly status and position. Jesus humbled himself to not use all of the attributes of Deity during His earthly ministry, but He did not lose those attributes, or give them away for a time.

It should also be noted that the New Testament stands in direct contradiction of this heresy. Thus, the heresy of Kenosis states that Jesus gave up some of His divine attributes while on earth, but the correct biblical position, the correct doctrine of Kenosis, states that Jesus’s emptying means that while having all of the attributes of Deity, He humbled himself to the point of death on the cross, and He did not use all of His divine attributes during His earthly ministry.

5. Why Was Jesus’ _____ Necessary? – It was necessary for Jesus to be fully man in order to secure our salvation, but we must also recognize that it is crucially important for us to insist on the full deity of Christ as well. This is so for three reasons:
 - A. Only someone Who is _____ could bear the full penalty for all the sins of all those who would believe in Him. A finite creature would have been incapable of bearing that penalty.
 - B. _____ is from the Lord (Jonah 2:9) and the whole message of Scripture is designed to show that no human being could ever save man. Only God himself could save sinners condemned to death.
 - C. Only someone who was fully and truly God could be the _____ between God and man (1 Timothy 2:5), both to bring us back to God and to reveal God most fully to us (John 14:9).

6. Three Heretical Views of the Person of Jesus Christ
 - a. Apollinarianism – Apollinaris, who became bishop in Laodicea about A.D. 361, taught that the one person of Christ had a human body but not a human mind or spirit, and that the mind and spirit of Christ were from the divine nature of the Son of God. This cannot be true because it was not just the human body that needed salvation, but also the human mind and spirit (soul). Jesus Christ had to be fully and truly man if He was to save us.
 - b. Nestorianism – Nestorius was a popular preacher in Antioch and was the bishop of Constantinople beginning in A.D. 428. Even though it is believed that he never taught this heresy, some of his teachings were combined by others and his name became attached to it. This heresy teaches that there were two separate persons in

Christ, a human person and a divine person, a teaching that clearly departs from the biblical teaching that Jesus is one Person.

Nowhere in Scripture is Jesus presented as having two natures in which the human nature of Christ is distinct or separate from the divine nature of Christ. Whenever Jesus speaks of himself, He always speaks as “I” not “we.” Only when He is speaking of His relationship with the Father, that is the relationship between the three Persons of the Godhead (the Trinity), does He refer to “we” (John 14:23). Thus, Jesus is one Person possessing both a human and a divine nature.

- c. Monophysitism (Eutychianism) – (Greek: *monos* – one; *physis* – nature) Eutyches (A.D. 378-454) taught the opposite error from Nestorianism. He denied that the human nature and the divine nature in Christ remained fully human and fully divine. He believed that the human nature was taken up and absorbed into the divine nature to create some new kind of third nature. This would be like putting ink into clear water. Both are changed and become something else that is not the pure form of the other before the union. This cannot be true because it would mean that Jesus Christ was neither truly God nor truly human, and thus He could not atone for our sin and secure our salvation.

Faith Baptist Church

“Systematic Theology: A Study of the Primary Doctrines of the Christian Faith”

Lesson 5

I. The Doctrine of the _____ (Pneumatology)

- A. The Holy Spirit is _____ and is one Person within the Godhead, or Trinity. In this chapter we will focus on the work of the Holy Spirit for two reasons: First, we will carefully explain the Person of the Holy Spirit next week in our study of the doctrine of the Trinity. Second, many people, even well-meaning Christians, misunderstand the distinctive work of the Holy Spirit.
- B. We may define the work of the Holy Spirit as follows: The work of the Holy Spirit is to manifest the _____ of God in the world, and especially in the Church. _____, the presence of God was manifested by the glory of God. _____, Jesus himself manifested the presence of God among men. After Christ’s ascension to heaven and continuing through the entire church age, the Holy Spirit is the primary manifestation of the presence of the Trinity among us.
- C. From the beginning of creation, the work of the Holy Spirit has been to _____ what God the Father has planned and God the Son _____.

The Holy Spirit _____.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ² And the earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters. (Gen 1:1-2 NAS)

The Holy Spirit fills the Church with power for the purpose of _____ throughout the earth.

⁸ but you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth." (Act 1:8 NAS)

D. The Holy Spirit is God _____ in Four Ways

1. The Holy Spirit _____

- a. He Gives _____ – In the realm of nature it is the role of the Holy Spirit to give life to all creatures.

³⁰ *Thou dost send forth Thy Spirit, they are created; And Thou dost renew the face of the ground. (Psa 104:30 NAS)*

Conversely, the removal of God's Spirit means _____.

¹⁴ *"If He should determine to do so, If He should gather to Himself His spirit and His breath,"¹⁵ All flesh would perish together, And man would return to dust. (Job 34:14-15 NAS)*

Most importantly, the Holy Spirit _____ within Mary's womb.

¹⁸ *Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man, and not wanting to disgrace her, desired to put her away secretly. ²⁰ But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for that which has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. (Mat 1:18-20 NAS)*

b. He Gives Power for _____

In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit frequently empowered people for special service. He empowered Joshua with _____.

¹⁸ *So the LORD said to Moses, "Take Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay your hand on him; ¹⁹ and have him stand before Eleazar the priest and before all the congregation; and commission him in their sight. ²⁰ "And you shall put some of your authority on him, in order that all the congregation of the sons of Israel may obey him. (Num 27:18-20 NAS)*

⁹ *Now Joshua the son of Nun was filled with the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him; and the sons of Israel listened to him and did as the LORD had commanded Moses. (Deu 34:9 NAS)*

Speaking prophetically of the coming Messiah, Isaiah spoke of the Holy Spirit anointing Jesus Christ in great _____.

²*And the Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him, The spirit of wisdom and understanding, The spirit of counsel and strength, The spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. ³ And He will delight in the fear of the LORD . . ." (Isa 11:2-3 NAS)*

In the New Testament, the empowering work of the Holy Spirit is seen first and most fully in His anointing and empowering of Jesus Christ.

³² *And John bore witness saying, "I have beheld the Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven, and He remained upon Him. (Joh 1:32 NAS)*

^{NAS} *Luke 4:1 And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led about by the Spirit in the wilderness (Luk 4:1 NAS)*

The Holy Spirit empowered _____ for the purpose of preaching Christ.

⁸ *Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers and elders of the people, (Act 4:8 NAS)*

³¹ *And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak the word of God with boldness. (Act 4:31 NAS)*

⁵ *for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction . . . (1Th 1:5 NAS)*

¹² *It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven-- things into which angels long to look. (1Pe 1:12 NAS)*

The Holy Spirit empowers Christians to _____ to the preaching of the Gospel and to God's work in people's lives.

²⁸ *"But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. (Mat 12:28 NAS)*

⁸ *But Elymas the magician (for thus his name is translated) was opposing them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith. ⁹ But Saul, who was also known as Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, fixed his gaze upon him, ¹⁰ and said, "You who are full of all deceit and fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease to make crooked the straight ways of the Lord? ¹¹ "And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you will be blind and not see the sun for a time." And immediately a mist and a darkness fell upon him, and he went about seeking those who would lead him by the hand. (Act 13:8-11 NAS)*

¹⁰ *and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills. (1Co 12:10-11 NAS)*

2. The Holy Spirit _____

- a. Since the Spirit of God is called the *Holy Spirit*, it is not surprising to find that one of His primary activities is to _____ and to sanctify us for the purpose of _____. When someone becomes a Christian, the Holy Spirit does an initial cleansing work in them, making a decisive break with the patterns of sin that were once a part of his/her life.

¹¹ *And such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the Spirit of our God. (1Co 6:11 NAS)*

⁵ *He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, (Tit 3:5 NAS)*

After our initial _____ that the Holy Spirit brings about at our conversion to Christ, He also produces in us growth in holiness so that we show forth the fruit of the Spirit in our lives.

²² *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴ Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. (Gal 5:22-25 NAS)*

¹⁸ *But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit. (2Co 3:18 NAS)*

¹³ *for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. (Rom 8:13 NAS)*

Thus, the evidence of the purifying work of the Holy Spirit in a Christian's life is the progressive sanctifying of their lives so that he/she becomes more holy, more like Christ. Anyone who continues to _____ or _____ of sin should seriously question the genuineness of their conversion.

3. The Holy Spirit _____

- A. Revelation to _____ – The Holy Spirit reveals God's Word to the Old Testament prophets.

² *And Balaam lifted up his eyes and saw Israel camping tribe by tribe; and the Spirit of God came upon him. (Num 24:2 NAS)*

⁵ *Then the Spirit of the LORD fell upon me, and He said to me, "Say, 'Thus says the LORD, "So you think, house of Israel, for I know your thoughts. (Eze 11:5 NAS)*

¹² "And they made their hearts like flint so that they could not hear the law and the words which the LORD of hosts had sent by His Spirit through the former prophets; therefore great wrath came from the LORD of hosts. (Zec 7:12 NAS)

²⁰ But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, ²¹ for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God. (2Pe 1:20-21 NAS)

B. Revelation to _____ – The Holy Spirit reveals God's Word to the New Testament apostles.

¹³ "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. (Joh 16:13 NAS)

⁴ And by referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵ which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit; (Eph 3:4-5 NAS)

C. He _____ God's People – Scripture gives many examples of direct guidance from the Holy Spirit to various people.

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. (Mat 4:1 NAS)

²⁹ And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go up and join this chariot." ³⁰ And when Philip had run up, he heard him reading Isaiah the prophet, and said, "Do you understand what you are reading?" (Act 8:29-30 NAS)

⁶ And they passed through the Phrygian and Galatian region, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia; ⁷ and when they had come to Mysia, they were trying to go into Bithynia, and the Spirit of Jesus did not permit them; ⁸ and passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas. ⁹ And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a certain man of Macedonia was standing and appealing to him, and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." ¹⁰ And when he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them. (Act 16:6-10 NAS)

Most often the guidance of the Holy Spirit is in the realm of day to day living in the lives of the saints. This is expressed as being _____,

¹⁴ For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. (Rom 8:14 NAS)

¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law. (Gal 5:18 NAS)

and as walking _____.

⁴ *in order that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. (Rom 8:4 NAS)*

¹⁶ *But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. (Gal 5:16 NAS)*

D. He Provides a _____ When He Manifests His Presence – Because He is fully God, the Holy Spirit will bring about the attributes of Deity in the people of God when He is present in their midst.

⁸ *"And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin, and righteousness, and judgment; ⁹ concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; ¹⁰ and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you no longer behold Me; ¹¹ and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged. (Joh 16:8-11 NAS)*

³⁰ *Now I urge you, brethren, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God for me, (Rom 15:30 NAS)*

⁸ *and he also informed us of your love in the Spirit. (Col 1:8 NAS)*

²² *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. (Gal 5:22-23 NAS)*

¹⁷ *for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. (Rom 14:17 NAS)*

Thus, when God's Spirit is present in the lives of _____, it is seen in God's people living with overflowing love for the Lord and one another.

E. He Gives Us _____ – We who are the children of God know it because the Holy Spirit affirms this truth to us.

¹⁶ *The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, (Rom 8:16 NAS)*

²⁴ *And the one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And we know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us. (1Jo 3:24 NAS)*

¹³ *By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. (1Jo 4:13 NAS)*

F. He _____ and Illumines (brings light to) – The Holy Spirit teaches the people of God so that we can understand what God wants us to.

²⁶ *"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you. (Joh 14:26 NAS)*

¹³ *"But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. (Joh 16:13 NAS)*

¹¹ *"And when they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not become anxious about how or what you should speak in your defense, or what you should say;¹² for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say." (Luk 12:11-12 NAS)*

¹² *Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things freely given to us by God, ¹³ which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words. (1Co 2:12-13 NAS)*

4. The Holy Spirit _____ – When the Holy Spirit was poured out on the Church at Pentecost, the Apostle Peter proclaimed that the prophecy of Joel 2:28-32 was fulfilled.

²⁸ *"And it will come about after this That I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind; And your sons and daughters will prophesy, Your old men will dream dreams, Your young men will see visions. ²⁹ "And even on the male and female servants I will pour out My Spirit in those days. ³⁰ "And I will display wonders in the sky and on the earth, Blood, fire, and columns of smoke. ³¹ "The sun will be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. ³² "And it will come about that whoever calls on the name of the LORD Will be delivered; For on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem There will be those who escape, As the LORD has said, Even among the survivors whom the LORD calls. (Joe 2:28-32 NAS)*

There is an emphasis on the Holy Spirit coming upon a community of believers, not just upon one leader as He did with Moses or Joshua, but upon sons and daughter, old men and young men, etc. All believers will receive the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in this time. Thus, the Holy Spirit created a new community which is the Church.

Paul prayed for the Corinthian church to be blessed by the Trinity, and specifically to be _____ in the Holy Spirit.

¹⁴ *The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. (2Co 13:14 NAS)*

And to the church in Philippi, Paul encouraged their _____ in the Holy Spirit.

If therefore there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, ² make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. (Phi 2:1-2 NAS)

And the Holy Spirit removes _____ to bring about unity in the Church.

¹³ *For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. (1Co 12:13 NAS)*

E. The Holy Spirit Gives Stronger or Weaker Evidence of the Presence and Blessing of God According to _____.

1. Jesus was without sin and the Holy Spirit remained on Him and was given to Him _____.

³² *And John bore witness saying, "I have beheld the Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven, and He remained upon Him. (Joh 1:32 NAS)*

³⁴ *"For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God; for He gives the Spirit without measure. (Joh 3:34 NAS)*

2. Many examples in both the Old and New Testaments indicate that the Holy Spirit will _____ blessing according to whether or not He is pleased with the situation that He sees.

A. Samson saw both the presence of the Spirit of God in _____ . . .

¹⁴ *When he came to Lehi, the Philistines shouted as they met him. And the Spirit of the LORD came upon him mightily so that the ropes that were on his arms were as flax that is burned with fire, and his bonds dropped from his hands. (Jdg 15:14 NAS)*

and the Spirit's departure in his _____.

²⁰ *And she said, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" And he awoke from his sleep and said, "I will go out as at other times and shake myself free." But he did not know that the LORD had departed from him. (Jdg 16:20 NAS)*

B. Saul also saw the departure of the Spirit of God when he persisted in sin.

¹⁴ *Now the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD terrorized him. (1Sa 16:14 NAS)*

C. Stephen rebuked the Jewish leaders for their _____ of the Spirit.

⁵¹ "You men who are stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears are always resisting the Holy Spirit; you are doing just as your fathers did. (Act 7:51 NAS)

D. Paul warned the Ephesian Christians not to grieve the Holy Spirit _____.

³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. (Eph 4:30 NAS)

and he commands the Thessalonians

¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit; (1Th 5:19 NAS)

Paul also gives a stern warning to the believers in Corinth not defile themselves by joining together with a prostitute because the Holy Spirit _____.

¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? ²⁰ For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body. (1Co 6:19-20 NAS)

3. We Can Know Close _____ with the Holy Spirit in Our Lives

A. The Holy Spirit opens our minds to _____.

¹⁴ But their minds were hardened; for until this very day at the reading of the old covenant the same veil remains unlifted, because it is removed in Christ. (2Co 3:14 NAS)

B. The Holy Spirit _____ with Us

If therefore there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, (Phi 2:1 NAS)

C. The Holy Spirit Entrusts Us – He entrusts us with gifts, _____, and ministry.

¹¹ But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills. (1Co 12:11 NAS)

¹⁴ Guard, through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, the treasure which has been entrusted to you. (2Ti 1:14 NAS)

²⁸ "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. (Act 20:28 NAS)

Faith Baptist Church

“Systematic Theology: A Study of the Primary Doctrines of the Christian Faith”

Lesson 6

I. The Doctrine of the _____

A. The Doctrine of the Trinity is _____ in Scripture.

1. Partial Revelation in the _____

2. More Complete Revelation in the _____

B. Three Statements Summarize the Biblical Teaching

- God is Three Persons.

- Each Person is fully God.

- There is one God.

1. God is _____ – The fact that God is three Persons means that the Father is not the Son, nor is the Son the Spirit, nor is the Spirit the Father. They are separate and distinct Persons. Evidence of this is replete in Scripture.

The Father and the Son are _____.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. (Joh 1:1-2 NAS)

²⁴ "Father, I desire that they also, whom Thou hast given Me, be with Me where I am, in order that they may behold My glory, which Thou hast given Me; for Thou didst love Me before the foundation of the world. (Joh 17:24 NAS)

The Father and the Son are distinct Persons and they are distinct from _____ of the Holy Spirit.

²⁶ "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you. (Joh 14:26 NAS)

²⁶ And in the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for

words; ²⁷ and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. (Rom 8:26-27 NAS)

⁷ "But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper shall not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. (Joh 16:7 NAS)

Some people have incorrectly assumed that the Holy Spirit is simply the power of God or a force from God at work in the world rather than a distinct Person. The teaching of the New Testament clearly contradicts this wrong view in no uncertain terms.

A. First, the Holy Spirit is spoken of as _____ with the Father and the Son.

⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all. (Eph 4:4-6 NAS)

⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. ⁵ And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. ⁶ And there are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons. (1Co 12:4-6 NAS)

Second, the Holy Spirit is referred to in Greek using the _____ pronoun which one would not expect in proper Greek grammar when referring to a spirit which is not masculine or feminine, but neuter.

²⁶ "When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, He will bear witness of Me, (Joh 15:26 NAS)

¹³ "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. (Joh 16:13 NAS)

Third, the term *counselor* or *comforter* (Greek: *parakletos*) is commonly used to speak of a person who gives help or comfort or counsel to someone, but they are also used of the Holy Spirit.

⁷ "But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper shall not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. (Joh 16:7 NAS)

Finally, if the Holy Spirit is wrongly understood to be only the power of God rather than a distinct Person, then a number of biblical pericopes would not make sense.

For example: ¹⁴ And Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit; and news about Him spread through all the surrounding district. (Luk 4:14 NAS) would have

to be understood to mean, “And Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the power . . .” It does not make sense.

Also, ³⁸ *“You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how He went about doing good, and healing all who were oppressed by the devil; for God was with Him. (Act 10:38 NAS)* would have to be understood to mean, “You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the power and with power . . .”

Again, this simply makes no sense and conflicts with a _____ reading of the biblical text as well as the grammar and syntax rules of Koine Greek in the New Testament.

2. Each Person is _____ – In addition to the fact that all three Persons of the Godhead are distinct, the abundant testimony of Scripture is that each Person is fully God as well.

First, God the Father is clearly God. From the first verse in the Bible, _____ the heavens and the earth. It is evident throughout the Old and New Testaments that God the Father is the sovereign Lord over all. Jesus also prays to His Father in heaven.

Second, God the Son is clearly God. These well-known verses declare the _____ of the Son.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being by Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. ⁴ In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. (Joh 1:1-4 NAS)

This passage echoes the text in Genesis showing that John is talking about something that was true in all eternity past before the earth was created. God the Son _____.

Third, God the Holy Spirit is clearly God. Once we understand that God the Father and God the Son are God, then verses like Matthew 28:19 make perfect sense.

¹⁹ *“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, (Mat 28:19 NAS)*

Thus, God the Holy Spirit is _____ to be on the same level as God the Father and God the Son because He is God. It would be unthinkable for Jesus to command people be baptized in the name of the God the Father, God the Son, and then some created being or power that was less than God.

King David asks in Psalm 139:7-8:

⁷ *Where can I go from Thy Spirit? Or where can I flee from Thy presence? ⁸ If I ascend to heaven, Thou art there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, Thou art there. (Psa 139:7-8 NAS)*

This pericope attributes the divine characteristic of _____ to the Holy Spirit, something that is not true of any created being or power.

Moreover, God the Holy Spirit gives the _____ to everyone who is born again.

⁵ *Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. ⁶ "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ "Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' (Joh 3:5-7 NAS)*

Thus, the Holy Spirit is God because _____ can give someone a new spiritual life.

3. There is _____ – Scripture is adamantly clear that there is one and only one God. The three Persons of the Trinity are one not only in purpose, but they are _____, one in their essential nature.

⁴ *"Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one! ⁵ "And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. (Deu 6:4-5 NAS)*

When Moses sings,

¹¹ *"Who is like Thee among the gods, O LORD? Who is like Thee, majestic in holiness, Awesome in praises, working wonders? (Exo 15:11 NAS)*

The answer is an obvious “No one.”

⁵ *"I am the LORD, and there is no other; Besides Me there is no God. I will gird you, though you have not known Me; ⁶ That men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun That there is no one besides Me. I am the LORD, and there is no other, (Isa 45:5-6 NAS)*

The Apostle Paul affirms this in the _____.

⁵ *For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, (1Ti 2:5 NAS)*

C. Heretical Errors that Arise from Denying the Three Statements Summarizing the Trinity

God is _____.

Each Person is _____.

There is _____.

1. Modalism – Denying that *God is three Persons*, Modalism claims that God is one person who appears to us in different forms in different times. The Old Testament God appeared as _____. Throughout the Gospels, the same divine person appeared as _____. After Pentecost, this same person revealed himself to be _____.

This heresy is also known as *Sabellianism* after a teacher named Sabellius who lived in Rome in the early third century. It is also referred to as Modalistic Monarchianism because this teaching not only says that God revealed himself in different “modes” but it also says that there is only one supreme ruler (monarch) in the universe, and that is God himself who is only one person.

Numerous biblical passages refute this heresy.

⁹ *Jesus said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how do you say, 'Show us the Father'?" (Joh 14:9 NAS)*

Jesus here declares that both He and the Father are the same God. He does not tell Philip that He and the Father are the same person.

A fatal shortcoming of Modalism is that it denies the _____ within the Trinity. It must deny the three separate Persons present at Jesus’ baptism when Christ is Incarnate, the Father speaks, and the Holy Spirit descends upon Jesus and remains upon Him.

Of equal weight against Modalism is that this heresy must also deny the doctrine of _____ because the Father could never have sent the Son to die as the substitutionary sacrifice for sin if they were the same person.

2. Arianism – Denying that *each Person is fully God*, Arianism, named after Arias, the Bishop of Alexandria whose views were condemned at the Council of Nicea in A.D. 325, taught that God the Son was created by God the Father, and that before that time the Son did not exist. Arias claimed that Jesus was “like the Father” or “similar to the Father,” but not “of the same nature.” He held that “begotten” meant created which is an incorrect translation of the word. “Begotten” actually denotes “_____” as of a first-born, but it does not at all imply a coming into existence.

The Nicene Creed of A.D. 325 was written in part to correct this heresy when it says,

“We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father . . .”

Thus, the heresy of Arianism _____.

3. Subordinationism – Denying that *each Person is fully God*, Subordinationism holds that while Jesus is divine and not a created being, He is less in rank than God the Father, and therefore subordinate to God. This is also a clear denial of the doctrine of the Trinity.
4. Adoptionism – Denying that *each Person is fully God*, Adoptionism posits that Jesus was born a man and at his baptism was adopted by God to be the Son at which time he received his supernatural powers. This view denies the eternity of Jesus Christ since in their view he began as a created man. Thus, Jesus is not eternal and does not have a divine nature. In point of fact, this is the view that most people today have of Jesus Christ.

D. The Importance of the Doctrine of the Trinity – Is it really so important to believe in the doctrine of the Trinity? Without question, the answer is “Yes.”

1. Without the Trinity, there is no _____. If Jesus is not the Son of God, then we stand before God accountable for our own sin because a sinless Mediator between God and man does not exist.
2. Without the Trinity, _____ is threatened because we would have to deny the full deity of God the Son.
3. Without the Trinity, we should not worship Jesus or pray to Him because He is not God.
4. Without the Trinity, the Bible wrongly attributes the _____ to a Jesus who was created thereby claiming that a creature and not God saved man.
5. Without the Trinity, the unity of the created universe is at stake because if there is not _____ within the Godhead (since only the Father is divine), then it could not be possible to have unity within the created order that a godhead with finite members of the godhead has made.

The only distinctions between the members of the Trinity are in the ways they relate to each other and to creation.

The entire doctrine of God is at the heart of the doctrine of the Trinity. The Father is God, Jesus Christ the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God. They are _____ and are _____.

Faith Baptist Church

“Systematic Theology: A Study of the Primary Doctrines of the Christian Faith”

Lesson 7

I. The Doctrine of _____ (Anthropology)

A. The _____ of Man – Unlike any other created thing, the human race stands at the pinnacle of creation having been created both male and female in the image of God.

1. The Use of the Word Man to Refer to _____ – Though many in our politically correct culture object to the use of the word man to refer to the human race, this is the mandate that Scripture gives us in Genesis.

This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day when God created man, He made him in the likeness of God. ² He created them male and female, and He blessed them and named them Man in the day when they were created. (Gen 5:1-2 NAS)

There is a theological issue at stake here. The Hebrew word translated as “Adam” is *adam*, the same term used for both the name of Adam, and for man as distinct from woman. Thus, the Word of God uses *adam* to refer to both male human beings, and to the human race generally. This originated with God himself so we should not allow cultural whims to declare such usage objectionable or insensitive.

2. Why Was Man _____? - God did not create man because He needed man, nor because He is added to in any way by man’s existence. God did not need us for any reason. Man was created for the _____.

⁷ Everyone who is called by My name, And whom I have created for My glory, Whom I have formed, even whom I have made.” (Isa 43:7 NAS)

³¹ Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. (1Co 10:31 NAS)

3. What Then is _____ in Life? Since God created man for His glory, then our purpose in this life is to _____. This statement is a good summary of our purpose, but when we think of our own interests, we make the happy discovery that we are to enjoy God and take delight in Him and in our relationship with Him.

²⁵ *Whom have I in heaven but Thee? And besides Thee, I desire nothing on earth.* ²⁶ *My flesh and my heart may fail, But God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.* (Psa 73:25-26 NAS)

_____ is found in knowing God and delighting in the excellence of His character. To be in His presence, to enjoy fellowship with Him, is a greater blessing than anything that can be imagined.

How lovely are Thy dwelling places, O LORD of hosts! ² My soul longed and even yearned for the courts of the LORD; My heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God. ¹⁰ For a day in Thy courts is better than a thousand outside. I would rather stand at the threshold of the house of my God, Than dwell in the tents of wickedness. (Psa 84:1-2,10 NAS)

4. Man in the _____ – The fact that Scripture presents man as created in the image of God, or after the likeness of God, means that the Bible does not need to say something like:

Man created in the image of God means that man is like God in the following ways: intellectual ability, moral purity, spiritual nature, dominion over the earth, creativity, ability to make ethical choices, and immortality.

Therefore, being created in the image of God inherently means these things and the _____ of God's Word bears this out. Even though the image of God in man has been distorted by sin, it is not lost in us. In Jesus Christ, God is restoring the fallen image more to Christ's likeness. This restoration will be completed in the Second Coming of Jesus Christ for His church.

In light of this sanctifying work of restoration, what are some specific aspects of our likeness to God?

- a. _____ – We are creatures who are morally accountable to God for our actions. We have an inner sense of right and wrong. When we act in accordance with God's moral standards, we reflect His likeness. Conversely, _____, we reflect our unlikeness to God.
- b. _____ – We not only have physical bodies, but we also have immaterial spirits, and we can therefore act in ways that are significant in the spiritual realm of existence. This means that we can pray to God, praise God, and hear Him speak to us _____.
- c. _____ – We have the ability to reason and think. We are creative. We posit and solve increasingly difficult theological and philosophical questions. We use complex and abstract language to communicate thoughts and ideas to one another. We have an awareness of a distant future. We have an understanding of

the consequences of our actions. None of these mental aspects is true of any other created thing because we alone have been created in _____.

- d. _____ – We have the ability to have great depth of interpersonal relationships and to know harmony within human marriage, within human families, and within a community of believers.

B. Man as _____ – Although the creation of man as male and female is not the only way that we are created in the image of God, it is a significant part of who God created us to be in order to reflect His image in these ways: (1) harmonious personal relationships, (2) equality in personhood and importance, and (3) differences in role and authority.

1. _____ – God did not create us for isolation. God created us to live in intimate relationship with others. The greatest example of this is _____.

²⁴ For this cause a man shall leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and they shall become one flesh. (Gen 2:24 NAS)

The union between a husband and a wife is a _____.

"Yet you say, 'For what reason?' Because the LORD has been a witness between you and the wife of your youth, against whom you have dealt treacherously, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant. ¹⁵ "But not one has done so who has a remnant of the Spirit. And what did that one do while he was seeking a godly offspring? Take heed then, to your spirit, and let no one deal treacherously against the wife of your youth. (Mal 2:14-15 NAS)

² For the married woman is bound by law to her husband while he is living; but if her husband dies, she is released from the law concerning the husband. (Rom 7:2 NAS)

The marriage covenant is not a trivial one, but rather one that is to convey to the church and to the world the relationship between _____.

2. _____ – The truth that God created man and woman in His image should preclude any feeling of pride or inferiority, or any idea that one sex is better or worse than the other. While many non-Christian religions relegate woman to the status of little more than property and elevate men to the role of beasts who oppress with women with impunity, the Bible stands in stark opposition to this lie.

God presents both man and woman as bearing His image and therefore, by definition, both sexes have been created with _____ for all eternity.

¹¹ However, in the Lord, neither is woman independent of man, nor is man independent of woman. ¹² For as the woman originates from the man, so also the man has his birth through the woman; and all things originate from God. (1Co 11:11-12 NAS)

As evidence of their _____ before God, it should be noted that both men and women are commanded to repent of their sin, to place saving faith in Jesus Christ, to undergo baptism after their conversion, and to receive the Lord's Supper. Both sexes are also sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise until the day of redemption.

²⁷ For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. (Gal 3:27-28 NAS)

3. _____ – While man and woman were created in the image of God and are of equal worth, they have different roles.

A. The Relationship Between _____ in Marriage – Within the Trinity there has been equality in importance, personhood, and deity throughout all eternity, but there have also been differences between their roles. All three Persons are of the same essence and are one God, but their roles are different.

God the Father always relates to God the Son as a Father to a Son. The Father has a leadership role within the Godhead, a role of authority.

In _____, God the Father initiates, God the Son creates, and the Holy Spirit sustains. They are equal and carry out different roles.

In _____, God the Father sends God the Son into the world and the Son obeys the Father unto death as a sacrifice for sin. God the Father and the Holy Spirit did not come to dwell among men. Only God the Son did this because He has a different role.

In sealing the saints, in empowering believers for holy obedience and witnessing, and in convicting the world of sin, God the Father and God the Son do not do this. Only the Holy Spirit does this because He has a different role.

Since human beings were created in the image of God and reflect the character of God, we would naturally expect similar differences in roles among human beings. This is exactly what we find in the biblical text as it relates to man and woman in _____.

The Apostle Paul makes this parallel explicit when he says,

³ But I want you to understand that Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of a woman, and God is the head of Christ. (1 Co 11:3 NAS)

Just as God the Father has authority over God the Son, though the two are equal in deity, so in a marriage the husband has authority over the wife though they are equal in personhood before God.

²³ For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. ²⁴ But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything. (Eph 5:23-24 NAS)

The Bible is clear about the different roles given by God to man and woman, but again, this is without any diminishment in their worth before God.

4. The _____ of Man – We recognize that the Bible presents man as an overall unity created by God. Having established this unity as a created being, man is a dichotomy: he is created in _____: body and soul (spirit).

- A. The Bible Uses “soul” and “spirit” interchangeably - soul (Hebrew: *nephesh*; Greek: *psyche*) and spirit (Hebrew: *ruach*; Greek: *pneuma*)

The following are examples of the use of these two words to mean the _____.

²⁷ "Now My soul has become troubled; and what shall I say, 'Father, save Me from this hour '? But for this purpose I came to this hour. (Joh 12:27 NAS)

²¹ When Jesus had said this, He became troubled in spirit, and testified, and said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, that one of you will betray Me." (Joh 13:21 NAS)

Similarly, we find a use of Hebrew parallelism in the New Testament that demonstrates this _____ meaning for *soul* and *spirit*. Hebrew parallelism is a poetic device in which the same idea is expressed using two different words that mean the same thing.

⁴⁶ And Mary said: "My soul exalts the Lord, ⁴⁷ And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. (Luk 1:46-47 NAS)

- B. At Death, Scripture Says Either That the “Soul” Departs or the “Spirit” Departs

Scripture Using “_____”

¹⁸ And it came about as her soul was departing (for she died) . . . (Gen 35:18 NAS)

²¹ Then he stretched himself upon the child three times, and called to the LORD, and said, "O LORD my God, I pray Thee, let this child's life (*nephesh*) return to him." (1Ki 17:21 NAS)

²⁰ "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your soul is required of you; and now who will own what you have prepared?' (Luk 12:20 NAS)

Scripture Using “_____”

⁴⁶ And Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into Thy hands I commit My spirit." And having said this, He breathed His last. (Luk 23:46 NAS)

⁷ *then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it. (Ecc 12:7 NAS)*

⁵⁹ *And they went on stoning Stephen as he called upon the Lord and said, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!" (Act 7:59 NAS)*

Faith Baptist Church

“Systematic Theology: A Study of the Primary Doctrines of the Christian Faith”

Lesson 8

I. The Doctrine of _____ (Hamartiology)

- A. Definition: The history of the human race is presented in Scripture primarily as a history of man in a state of _____ against God, and God’s plan to redeem mankind back to Himself. Therefore, it is appropriate to consider the nature of sin that now separates _____.

We may define sin as follows: any failure to conform to the _____ of God in act, attitude, or nature.

Scripture is replete with the commands of God to avoid sin.

¹³ "You shall not murder. ¹⁴ "You shall not commit adultery. ¹⁵ "You shall not steal. ¹⁶ "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. ¹⁷ "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife or his male servant or his female servant or his ox or his donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbor." (Exo 20:13-17 NAS)

²² "But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever shall say to his brother, 'Raca,' shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever shall say, 'You fool,' shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell. (Mat 5:22 NAS)

²⁷ "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery'; ²⁸ but I say to you, that everyone who looks on a woman to lust for her has committed adultery with her already in his heart. (Mat 5:27-28 NAS)

¹⁹ Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, ²¹ envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you just as I have forewarned you that those who practice such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. (Gal 5:19-21 NAS)

We should make careful note that the definition of sin given above states that not only have we broken God’s moral law in action and attitude, but also in our _____. Apart from Christ, we are, by our very nature, sin.

We must recognize the seriousness of sin. In a universe created by a perfect and moral God, sin is in direct opposition to all that is good in the character of God. And just as God delights in Himself and all that He is, so God necessarily and eternally hates sin. Sin is, in essence, the contradiction of the excellence of God's moral character. It contradicts His holiness. Therefore, God must _____.

B. The _____ of Sin

1. In understanding where sin came from and how it entered the universe, we must first affirm that sin did not _____. To try to lay the blame for sin at the feet of God would be blasphemy against the nature and character of God.

His work is perfect, For all His ways are just; A God of faithfulness and without injustice, Righteous and upright is He. (Deu 32:4 NAS)

¹⁰ *"Therefore, listen to me, you men of understanding. Far be it from God to do wickedness, And from the Almighty to do wrong. (Job 34:10 NAS)*

¹³ *Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. (Jam 1:13 NAS)*

On the other hand, it would also be wrong to say that there exists in the universe an eternally existing evil power similar or equal to God. This false belief is called _____ in which there are two equally ultimate powers in the universe, one good and one evil, that battle for control. This is untrue.

God is the sovereign Creator of the universe who is holy and without sin in all His perfections. Sin is the consequence of moral beings choosing of their free will to violate God's commands.

2. Sin first entered the universe through the sin of _____. We see a declaration of his fall in Isaiah 14. Though this passage is speaking of the fall of the king of Babylon, we recognize that it is also a look backward to Lucifer.

⁹ *"Sheol from beneath is excited over you to meet you when you come; It arouses for you the spirits of the dead, all the leaders of the earth; It raises all the kings of the nations from their thrones. ¹⁰ "They will all respond and say to you, 'Even you have been made weak as we, You have become like us. ¹¹ 'Your pomp and the music of your harps Have been brought down to Sheol; Maggots are spread out as your bed beneath you, And worms are your covering.' ¹² "How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, You who have weakened the nations! ¹³ "But you said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, And I will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north. ¹⁴ 'I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.' ¹⁵ "Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, To the recesses of the pit. ¹⁶ "Those who see you will*

gaze at you, They will ponder over you, saying, 'Is this the man who made the earth tremble, Who shook kingdoms, (Isa 14:9-16 NAS)

Similarly, some of the angels followed Lucifer in his _____.

⁹ *And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. (Rev 12:9 NAS)*

Sin then entered the race of man through the sin of _____.

⁶ *When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate. (Gen 3:6 NAS)*

3. We must also recognize that sin is ultimately _____. It really did not make sense for Satan to rebel against God in the expectation that that he would be successful in exalting his throne above God.

In the same way, it did not make sense for Adam to _____. Today, it does not make sense for men to continue to sin against God. It is the fool who says in his heart that there is no God.

The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." (Psa 14:1 NAS)

It is the fool who recklessly indulges in all kinds of sin.

²³ *Doing wickedness is like sport to a fool; And so is wisdom to a man of understanding. (Pro 10:23 NAS)*

¹⁵ *The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, But a wise man is he who listens to counsel. (Pro 12:15 NAS)*

¹⁶ *A wise man is cautious and turns away from evil, But a fool is arrogant and careless. (Pro 14:16 NAS)*

² *A fool does not delight in understanding, But only in revealing his own mind. (Pro 18:2 NAS)*

Though people often persuade themselves that they have good reasons for sinning, when examined in the cold light of truth on the last day, it will be seen in every case that sin ultimately does not make sense.

- C. The Doctrine of _____ Sin – How does the sin of Adam affect us? Scripture teaches that we inherit sin from Adam in two ways.

1. Inherited Guilt: We Are Counted Guilty Because of _____.

¹² *Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned-- (Rom 5:12 NAS)*

The Apostle Paul is not talking here about the commission of particular sins. Rather, he is speaking about sin as all men having sinned in Adam. The idea that God counted us guilty because of Adam's sin is further affirmed in Romans.

¹⁸ *So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men.¹⁹ For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous. (Rom 5:18-19 NAS)*

Thus, all men have inherited guilt for sin because all men are the descendants of Adam.

a. When confronted with this doctrine of inherited guilt, most people protest it as _____. There are two appropriate responses to this objection:

1. Everyone who protests that this is unfair has also voluntarily committed many _____ for which God also holds them guilty.
2. If we think it is unfair to be represented by Adam, then we should also think it is unfair for us to be represented _____ and to have His righteousness imputed to us by God.

2. Inherited _____: We Have a Sinful Nature Because of Adam's Sin.

In addition to the legal guilt that God imputes to us because of Adam's sin, we also inherit a _____.

⁵ *Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me. (Psa 51:5 NAS)*

David is not speaking here of his mother's sin, nor of the sexual act as sinful. He is speaking of his own inherited sin. The context of Psalm 51 is David's personal _____ of his own iniquity.

³ *Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. (Eph 2:3 NAS)*

a. In Our _____ We Totally Lack Spiritual Good Before God.

It is not just that some parts of us are sinful and others are pure. Every part of our being is affected _____: our intellects, our emotions, our hearts, our goals and motives, and even our physical bodies.

¹⁸ *For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the wishing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not. (Rom 7:18 NAS)*

¹⁵ *To the pure, all things are pure; but to those who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure, but both their mind and their conscience are defiled. (Tit 1:15 NAS)*

⁹ *"The heart is more deceitful than all else And is desperately sick; Who can understand it? (Jer 17:9 NAS)*

¹⁷ *This I say therefore, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind,¹⁸ being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; (Eph 4:17-18 NAS)*

b. In Our _____ We Are Totally Unable to do Spiritual Good Before God.

This idea is related to the previous one. Not only do we sinners lack any spiritual good in ourselves, but we also lack the ability to do anything that will in itself _____.

⁷ *because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so; ⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. (Rom 8:7-8 NAS)*

⁶ *And without faith it is impossible to please Him, (Heb 11:6 NAS)*

Some might protest this dire diagnosis of the man's _____, insisting the people can do many good things, but the Word of God says otherwise.

⁶ *For all of us have become like one who is unclean, And all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment; And all of us wither like a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. (Isa 64:6 NAS)*

¹⁰ *as it is written, "There is none righteous, not even one; ¹¹ There is none who understands, There is none who seeks for God; ¹² All have turned aside, together they have become useless; There is none who does good, There is not even one." (Rom 3:10-12 NAS)*

D. Actual _____ in Our Lives

1. All People Are Sinful Before God. – Scripture testifies to the fact of the universal _____ of man.

² *And do not enter into judgment with Thy servant, For in Thy sight no man living is righteous. (Psa 143:2 NAS)*

⁹ *Who can say, "I have cleansed my heart, I am pure from my sin?" (Pro 20:9 NAS)*

⁴⁶ *"When they sin against Thee (for there is no man who does not sin) (1Ki 8:46 NAS)*

In the New Testament, the Apostle Paul writes an extensive argument in Romans 1:18-3:20 showing that all people, both Jews and Greeks, are under the _____.

⁸ *If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. (1Jo 1:8 NAS)*

2. Does Our Ability _____ Our Responsibility? – Pelagius was a popular Christian teacher in Rome (383-410 A.D.) and then later in Palestine (until 424 A.D.). He taught that God only holds man responsible for those things that man is able to do. Thus, the Pelagian view rejects the doctrine of _____ and maintains that sin consists only in separate sinful acts.

However, Scripture clearly teaches otherwise. All of us were _____ in our sins.

And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, (Eph 2:1 NAS)

If all outside of Christ are dead in their sins, then there is no degree of dead. All are dead in sin. This truth precludes greater or lesser acts of sin in different individuals that might incur different punishments. No sinners are more or less guilty than other sinners. Our ability to sin _____ our responsibility for sin.

3. Are Infants Guilty Before They Commit Actual Sins? – _____.

Some people maintain that Scripture teaches an “age of accountability” before which young children are not held responsible for sin and are not counted guilty before God. However, Scripture flatly contradicts this error.

The doctrine of inherited sin in the previous section shows that even before their birth children stand guilty before God, they have a sin nature, and God views them _____.

⁵ *Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me. (Psa 51:5 NAS)*

In addition, the passages that speak of final judgment in terms of actual sinful deeds that have been done do not say anything about the basis of judgment when there have been no individual actions of right or wrong, as with children dying in early infancy.

⁵ *But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, ⁶ who will render to every man according to his deeds: ⁷ to those who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life; ⁸ but to those who are selfishly ambitious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, wrath and indignation. ⁹ There will be tribulation and distress for every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek, ¹⁰ but glory and honor and peace to every man who does good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. ¹¹ For there is no partiality with God. (Rom 2:5-11 NAS)*

In such cases we must accept the Scriptures that talk about us as having a sinful nature from _____ the time of birth. We must also recognize the fact that a child's sin nature manifests itself very early, even when still in infancy.

In light of this, it should be noted that it is possible for God to bring _____ to someone even before they are born. We see this in the life of John the Baptist.

¹⁵ *"For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and he will drink no wine or liquor; and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, while yet in his mother's womb. (Luk 1:15 NAS)*

From this verse, it is correct for us to understand that John was born again before he was physically born because he is filled with the Holy Spirit, a condition true only of believers. Scripture is silent on exactly how God chooses to convey the saving Gospel of Christ to infants, but we must be comfortable with this mystery because the Word of God is silent on the topic of how other than to provide evidence of it.

4. What Happens When a Christian _____?
- a. Our Legal Standing Before God is _____. – Since a Christian's forgiveness is not based upon his own merit,

²³ *For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom 6:23 NAS)*

he is still forgiven if he sins because . . .

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. (Rom 8:1-2 NAS)

Even if we sin, we are still the _____ and we still retain our membership in God's family.

Beloved, now we are children of God . . . (1Jo 3:2 NAS)

The fact that we have sin remaining in our lives does not mean that we lose our status as God's children. In theological terms, we do not lose our "adoption."

- b. Our Fellowship with God is _____, and our Christian life is _____.
– When we sin, even though God does not cease to love us, He is displeased with us. It is possible for us to grieve the Holy Spirit.

³⁰ *And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. (Eph 4:30 NAS)*

Having disrupted our fellowship with God through sin, we can expect God to reprove and _____ us.

¹⁹ *Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; be zealous therefore, and repent. (Rev 3:19 NAS)*

We should make note of the fact that love and reproof of sin are connected with bringing us back into fellowship with God. Moreover, when we sin as Christians, we _____ of heavenly reward.

¹² *Now if any man builds upon the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, ¹³ each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it, because it is to be revealed with fire; and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. ¹⁴ If any man's work which he has built upon it remains, he shall receive a reward. ¹⁵ If any man's work is burned up, he shall suffer loss; but he himself shall be saved, yet so as through fire. (1Co 3:12-15 NAS)*

- c. The Danger of Unconverted Evangelicals – While a genuine Christian who sins does not lose his or her justification or adoption before God, there needs to be a clear warning that mere _____ with an evangelical church and outward conformity to accepted "Christian" patterns of behavior does not guarantee salvation.

Many people have aligned themselves with a church but are in fact not born again. Their lives will bear out this truth by both their inability to

_____ as well as a consistent pattern of wickedness. They will demonstrate the fruit of the flesh as evidence of their unregenerate state.

¹⁹ *Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality,* ²⁰ *idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions,* ²¹ *envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you just as I have forewarned you that those who practice such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. (Gal 5:19-21 NAS)*

Such individuals should not be lulled into a false sense of security, but should instead greatly fear the coming _____ because they have not been converted.

²⁰ *"So then, you will know them by their fruits. ²¹ "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven. ²² "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' ²³ "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.' (Mat 7:20-23 NAS)*

5. What is the _____ Sin? – Several passages in Scripture speak of the unpardonable sin.

³¹ *"Therefore I say to you, any sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven men, but blasphemy against the Spirit shall not be forgiven. ³² "And whoever shall speak a word against the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him; but whoever shall speak against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him, either in this age, or in the age to come. (Mat 12:31-32 NAS)*

The context of these verses indicates that Jesus is speaking about a sin that is not simply unbelief or rejection of Christ. This sin includes:

- a. a clear knowledge of Who Christ is and of the power of the Holy Spirit working through Him,
- b. a _____ of the facts about Jesus that His opponents knew to be true,
- c. slanderously attributing the work of the Holy Spirit in Christ to the power of Satan.

In such a case the hardness of heart would be so great that any ordinary means of bringing a sinner to repentance would already have been rejected. Such individuals have already known the truth that Jesus is the Christ; that they must repent of their sin; and that they must come to Jesus by faith; and they have rejected it. This sin is unpardonable because cuts off the sinner from _____ and saving faith.

Thus, by their own choice, they are beyond redemption. Scripture bears out this truth.

⁴ For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, ⁵ and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, ⁶ and then have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God, and put Him to open shame. (Heb 6:4-6 NAS)

Faith Baptist Church

“Systematic Theology: A Study of the Primary Doctrines of the Christian Faith”

Lesson 9

I. The Doctrine of _____

- A. Definition: The topic of salvation is a very broad one. Therefore, we will narrow our discussion of salvation to “regeneration.” We may define *regeneration* as follows: Regeneration is a secret act of God in which He imparts new _____ to us. Sometimes this new spiritual life is called being _____.

³ *Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."* ⁴ *Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?"* ⁵ *Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."* ⁶ *"That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit."* ⁷ *"Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'" (Joh 3:3-7 NAS)*

- B. Regeneration is Totally a _____ – In some aspects of the doctrine of salvation, we play an active role. Among these aspects are conversion, sanctification, and perseverance. But in the work of regeneration, we play no active part at all. God alone regenerates a soul. We are passive _____ in the transaction. Note how in the following verses that God is active and we are passive.

¹⁸ *In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we might be, as it were, the first fruits among His creatures. (Jam 1:18 NAS)*

³ *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, (1Pe 1:3 NAS)*

The work of regeneration as a sovereign work of God is also seen prophetically in the Old Testament.

²⁶ *"Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh."* ²⁷ *"And I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances. (Eze 36:26-27 NAS)*

C. The Exact Nature of Regeneration is _____ to Us – We know that God takes sinners who were spiritually dead and makes them alive to Him. Scripture presents this mystery of becoming born again by an act of God in this way:

⁷ "Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' ⁸ "The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit." (Joh 3:7-8 NAS)

When someone is born again, it is incorrect to say that their spirits have been made alive. That is certainly part of it, but that is not the whole of it. The reason we must clarify here is that _____ of us is affected by regeneration.

¹⁷ Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. (2Co 5:17 NAS)

Because of the mysterious nature of regeneration and the fact that it changes us in every way, we rightly conclude that regeneration is an instantaneous act of God. It happens in a moment. At one moment we were spiritually dead and in the next moment we are made _____. Nevertheless, we do not know exactly when this change occurs.

For children growing up in Christian homes, or for people who attend an evangelical church over a period of time and grow gradually in their understanding of the Gospel, there may not be dramatic crisis with a radical change of behavior from a “hardened sinner” to a “holy saint,” but there will be an instantaneous change nonetheless. This instant change happens because the Holy Spirit, in an unseen and invisible way, awakens spiritual life within them. The change will become evident over time in patterns of behavior and desires that are _____.

In other cases, in fact in most cases when adults become Christians, regeneration takes place at a clearly recognizable time at which the person realizes that previously he or she was separated from God and spiritually dead. Their regeneration results in _____ and their new spiritual life becomes clearly evident in their lives. The results can usually be seen at once:

- A heartfelt trusting in Jesus Christ as _____
- An assurance of _____
- A desire to read the _____
- A delight in _____
- A longing for Christian _____
- A sincere desire to be obedient to _____ (Scripture)

- And a desire to _____ about Jesus Christ.

Even so, from our perspective it is often difficult to tell when God has regenerated someone because it is a hidden work of God. What is certain, however, is that regeneration comes _____ . This sequence is not always understood by Christians today. Let's look at this more closely.

We enter the kingdom of God when we become Christians at conversion. But Jesus says that we have to be born _____ before we can do that.

⁵ *Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. (Joh 3:5 NAS)*

Our inability to come to Christ on our own, without an initial _____ within us, is also emphasized by Jesus Christ.

⁴⁴ *"No one can come to Me, unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day. (Joh 6:44 NAS)*

⁶⁵ *And He was saying, "For this reason I have said to you, that no one can come to Me, unless it has been granted him from the Father." (Joh 6:65 NAS)*

This _____ of regeneration is beautifully described when Luke says of Lydia . . .

¹⁴ *And a certain woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshiper of God, was listening; and the Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul. (Act 16:14 NAS)*

Contrast this with what Paul says about a _____ man's belief apart from the work of God.

¹⁴ *But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised. (1Co 2:14 NAS)*

The solution to this spiritual deadness and inability to respond to the Gospel comes only when _____ new life within.

⁴ *But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), (Eph 2:4-5 NAS)*

¹³ *And when you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, (Col 2:13 NAS)*

Again, the idea that regeneration comes before saving faith is not always understood. Sometimes people will even say something like, “If you believe in Christ as your Savior, then (after you believe) you will be born again.” But Scripture never says anything like that. This new birth is presented in Scripture as something that God does within us to enable us to believe. The reason that they think that regeneration comes after saving faith is because they see _____ (love for God, love for the Word, turning from sin, etc.). Thus, they think that regeneration must come after saving faith. This is incorrect.

Yet here we must decide on the basis of what the _____ tells us because regeneration itself is not something that we see or know about directly. Because Christians can tend to focus on the results of regeneration rather than the hidden act of God, we can get the order confused.

If we are going to use language that most closely conforms to the actual wording of Scripture, it would be better to restrict the word “regeneration” to the instantaneous, _____ of God in which He imparts spiritual life to us. Then we can rightly say that we do not see regeneration itself, but only the results of it in our lives, and that faith in Jesus Christ for salvation is the _____ that we see. Therefore, we can never know that we have been regenerated until we come to faith in Jesus Christ because this is the first evidence of our regeneration. Once we do come to saving faith in Christ, we know that we have been _____.

By way of application, we should realize that the explanation of the Gospel message in Scripture does not take the form of a command, “Be born again and you will be saved,” but rather, “_____ the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved.” (John 3) This is the consistent pattern in the preaching of the Gospel throughout the book of Acts and also in the descriptions of the Gospel given in the Epistles.

D. Genuine Regeneration _____ in Life

In an earlier section of this study, we saw the beauty of Lydia’s regeneration as the Lord opened her heart to hear the Gospel through the Apostle Paul. Similarly, John says the *same thing*.

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God; (1Jo 5:1 NAS)

But there are additional results of regeneration that we find in John’s first epistle.

⁹ *No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. (1Jo 3:9 NAS)*

This does not mean that a regenerate person _____, but rather that one who is born again will not habitually practice sin. The one who is born again practices righteousness.

²⁹ *If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone also who practices righteousness is born of Him. (1Jo 2:29 NAS)*

Another effect of the new birth is _____ the world.

³ *For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.* ⁴ *For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world-- our faith. (1Jo 5:3-4 NAS)*

Finally, another result of our regeneration is _____.

¹⁸ *We know that no one who is born of God sins; but He who was born of God keeps him and the evil one does not touch him. (1Jo 5:18 NAS)*

Though there will certainly be attacks from the evil one, the Holy Spirit keeps us eternally safe in Christ and Satan cannot touch us.

We should also make note that John presents these evidences of regeneration as _____. They will be observable in the life of one who has been genuinely regenerated. Thus, if someone is genuinely regenerated, they will believe that Jesus is the Christ. They will refrain from sin. They will love their brother. They will overcome temptation. They will be kept from ultimate harm from Satan.

Therefore, these passages show that it is _____ for a person to be regenerated and not become truly converted. By contrast, those who are unbelievers, including those who are pretending to be believers but are not, will clearly lack these character traits in their lives. Jesus told His disciples,

¹⁵ *"Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves.* ¹⁶ *"You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes, nor figs from thistles, are they?"* ¹⁷ *"Even so, every good tree bears good fruit; but the bad tree bears bad fruit.* ¹⁸ *"A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit.* ¹⁹ *"Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.* ²⁰ *"So then, you will know them by their fruits. (Mat 7:15-20 NAS)*

A word of warning: In Scripture, neither Jesus nor the Apostle Paul ever point to activity in the church or even miracles as evidence of regeneration. They point to the character traits in life. Remember that immediately following the above verses Jesus warns that on the Day of Judgment, many will be shockingly terrified that Jesus does not _____ even though they performed many works.

²¹ *"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven.* ²² *"Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?'"* ²³ *"And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.'" (Mat 7:21-23 NAS)*

Apparently, all of these works can be done _____. Prophecy, exorcism, and many miracles and mighty works in Jesus' name (to say nothing of other kinds of intense church activities in the strength of the flesh over perhaps decades of a person's life) do not provide convincing evidence that a person is born again. All these outward effects can be produced in the flesh and even with the help of Satan.

On the other hand, genuine love for Jesus Christ and His church, heartfelt obedience to His commands, and the Christ-like characteristics that Scripture calls the _____, demonstrated consistently over a period of time in a person's life, simply cannot be produced by Satan or the _____ working in his or her own strength. The fruit of the Spirit can only come about by the Spirit of God working in us and giving us _____.

Faith Baptist Church

“Systematic Theology: A Study of the Primary Doctrines of the Christian Faith”

Lesson 10

I. The Doctrine of the _____ (Ecclesiology)

- A. Definition: The church is the community of all true believers for all time. This definition understands the church to be made of all those who are _____, that is, all who have believed in Jesus Christ as the Son of God Who died as an atonement for sin on their behalf, rose again on the third day, and is now seated at the right hand of God the Father.

Thus, the church includes _____ in the both the Old and New Testament periods. It is Jesus Christ Who builds the church by calling them to Himself.

¹⁸ "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades shall not overpower it. (Mat 16:18 NAS) ¹⁸ "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades shall not overpower it. (Mat 16:18 NAS)

Luke is also careful to tell us that it is Jesus Who builds His church.

And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved. (Act 2:47 NAS)

- B. The Church in the _____ – There are several indications in the Old Testament that God thought of His people as a church.

¹⁰ "Remember the day you stood before the LORD your God at Horeb, when the LORD said to me, 'Assemble the people to Me, that I may let them hear My words so they may learn to fear Me all the days they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children.' (Deu 4:10 NAS)

In the above verse, the Septuagint (the Greek translation of the Old Testament) translates the word “assemble” or “gather” as *ekklesiazō* which means “to summon an assembly.” It is this word that denotes the New Testament *ekklesia* or church.

New Testament writers also refer to the Old Testament people of Israel as the church.

³⁸ "This is the one who was in the congregation in the wilderness together with the angel who was speaking to him on Mount Sinai, and who was with our fathers; and he received living oracles to pass on to you. (Act 7:38 NAS)

Stephen is here speaking of the “congregation” of Jews in the wilderness. The word that we translated here as congregation is the Greek word *ekklesia* which is an assembly, the church. Similarly, the author of Hebrews quotes Jesus Christ as saying that He would sing praise to God in the midst of the _____ of God’s people in heaven.

¹² saying, "I will proclaim Thy name to My brethren, In the midst of the congregation I will sing Thy praise." (Heb 2:12 NAS)

Here again, the word translated congregation is *ekklesia*, the church.

- C. The Church in the _____ – The authors whom the Holy Spirit used to write the New Testament also make this same emphasis. They see Jewish and Gentile believers now united in the church. Together they have been _____.

¹⁴ For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one, and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, (Eph 2:14 NAS)

¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, (Eph 2:19 NAS)

- D. The Church is Invisible, Yet _____. – Since the church consists of the fellowship of all genuine believers from all times, the church is in part invisible. This is not only because some believers are now with the Lord, but it is also because we cannot see the true condition of _____.

We see people’s church attendance and we can see other outward evidences of apparent inward spiritual change, but we cannot actually see into the hearts of men. Only God can do that. Even in our own church family, only God knows those who are truly converted. This, we can give the following definition: The invisible church is the church _____.

Thus, we know that until the Lord Jesus Christ returns, the church as we see it, the visible church, will always contain unbelievers, those who are _____. But let us be cautioned here. We must not come to the place where we are suspicious of others as to their salvation. If others occasionally sin, we must restore one through loving church discipline that is redemptive. We must not jump on the opportunity to denounce someone as a lost sinner. Let us have charitable grace toward one another since we are not omniscient.

- E. The Church is Local and _____ – In the New Testament, the word “church” can be applied to a group of believers at any level, of any size, ranging from a few believers meeting in a home to all true believers in the universal church.

A church can be a small gathering of Christians meeting _____.

all the churches of the Gentiles; ⁵ also greet the church that is in their house. (Rom 16:4-5 NAS)

Or a church could be made up of every true believer _____.

² to the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, saints by calling, with all who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours: (1Co 1:2 NAS)

Or the church could be made up of every true believer _____.

³¹ So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria enjoyed peace, being built up; and, going on in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it continued to increase. (Act 9:31 NAS)

And finally, the church could be made up of every true believer _____.

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her; (Eph 5:25 NAS)

²⁸ And God has appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, (1Co 12:28 NAS)

Note that in this second verse above, God has appointed these three offices, not just to one church, but to the _____.

F. Metaphors for _____ – In order for us to understand the true nature of the church, Scripture uses a variety of metaphors and images to describe to us what the church is like.

1. The Church is a _____.

Do not sharply rebuke an older man, but rather appeal to him as a father, to the younger men as brothers, ² the older women as mothers, and the younger women as sisters, in all purity. (1Ti 5:1-2 NAS)

2. The Church is the _____. – Following a statement about how husbands ought to relate to and love their wives, the Apostle Paul writes . . .

³² This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church. (Eph 5:32 NAS)

² For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin. (2Co 11:2 NAS)

3. The Church is the _____.

¹⁵ but in case I am delayed, I write so that you may know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth. (1Ti 3:15 NAS)

4. The Church is the _____. The Apostle Paul uses the metaphor of the Body to describe the relationship of the church to her head, Jesus Christ. The length of this metaphor (1 Corinthians 12:12-27) precludes including it in the text of this study, but it is obviously worth our individual study.
- G. The Marks of the Church – The Reformers Martin Luther and John Calvin both agreed with what constituted a true church. In the Lutheran statement of faith that is called the Augsburg Confession (1530), the church is defined as “the congregation of saints in which the gospel is rightly taught and the Sacraments rightly administered.” (Article 7)

“Sacraments” is a word that by definition means an action that bestows grace. While we disagree with the word sacrament, preferring instead to call them _____, we do agree with the Reformers regarding the two actions in which the church should engage. They are _____ and the _____.

According to this definition then, those “churches” that do not rightly preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and do not rightly administer the ordinances of believers’ baptism and the Lord’s Supper, are not true churches.

Therefore, although these organizations declare that they are churches, they are not. We would then have to refer to them as cults whether because they preach _____ than that of Christ, or because they fail to practice the two ordinances of the church, or both of these: the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (a.k.a. Mormons, LDS), Jehovah’s Witnesses, Christian Science, Baha’i, etc.

In addition to these cults, we have to include larger movements, called world religions, that preach another gospel than the Gospel of Jesus Christ found in Scripture and/or do not rightly practice the two ordinances of Scripture. Among these false religions are Roman Catholicism, Oneness Pentecostalism, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, the Emerging Church, etc.

- H. The Purposes of the Church – We can understand the purpose of the church in three areas.
1. Ministry to God: _____ - In all that we do, Christians are to worship God. Worship in the church is not merely a preparation for something else. It fulfills the major purpose for which the church was created.

¹² to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ should be to the praise of His glory. (Eph 1:12 NAS)

¹⁶ *Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. (Col 3:16 NAS)*

2. Ministry to Believers: _____ – According to Scripture, the church has an obligation to believers to nurture them in the faith and to build them up in the maturity of the faith.

²⁸ *And we proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, that we may present every man complete in Christ. (Col 1:28 NAS)*

¹¹ *And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fulness of Christ. (Eph 4:11-13 NAS)*

3. Ministry to the World: _____ – Missions is the primary work of the church to the rest of the world. Closely affiliated with this mission of evangelism is the mission of mercy.

³⁵ *"But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men. (Luk 6:35 NAS)*

Jesus modeled this for the church when He healed, not only those who believed in Him, but _____ to Him.

⁴⁰ *And while the sun was setting, all who had any sick with various diseases brought them to Him; and laying His hands on every one of them, He was healing them. (Luk 4:40 NAS)*

Everyone who is a true believer in the Lord Jesus Christ is a missionary. Some go far away to the foreign mission field, but most Christian missionaries stay close to home. And while we are all serving as the church by taking the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ to the world through evangelism and mercy, we must be cautious that mercy does not become an end in itself. Mercy is an expression of Christ-like love. Mercy is a platform for declaring the Gospel. It must _____ the Gospel.